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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Keystone XL Oil Pipeline Project

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PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS

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Tuesday, September 27, 2011

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Pershing Center

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226 Centennial Mall South

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

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The Keystone XL Public Comment Meeting convened

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at 12 o'clock noon before a Panel:

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TERESA HOBGOOD, U.S. Department of State,

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presiding officer.

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MICHAEL STEWART, U.S. Department of State,

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presiding officer.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. HOBGOOD: Hello and good afternoon.

My name is Teresa Hobgood, and I am from the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. My colleague, Michael Stewart and I are here today to listen to your comments regarding the national interest determination for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

On behalf of the Department of State, we would like to thank the people of Nebraska for joining us at this public meeting in Lincoln. We recognize that this is an important issue, and we value your input. We also would like to thank the Pershing Center for agreeing to host the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is for you, members of the public, whether you are a farmer or scientist, to express your views on whether issuing a Presidential Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is in the national interest. To focus time and attention on your comments, we will not be answering questions at this or other public meetings in South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Texas and

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1 Washington, D.C.

2 Before we begin, we would like to describe
3 the Department of State's role in the Presidential
4 Permitting process and lay out the ground rules for
5 participating in this meeting.

6 With regard to the role of the Department
7 of State, in September of 2008, TransCanada Keystone
8 Pipeline, LP filed an application for a Presidential
9 Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.
10 Executive Order 1337, signed on April 30, 2004,
11 delegates to the Department of State the authority to
12 issue a Presidential Permit for facilities such as
13 the Keystone XL pipeline that cross the U.S. border.

14 In considering a permit, the Department of
15 State determines whether allowing the border crossing
16 is in the U.S.' national interest, taking into
17 account environmental and safety issues as well as
18 energy security, foreign policy, and social and
19 economic concerns.

20 In addition to the Executive Order, the
21 Department determined, because of the importance of
22 the proposed pipeline, that it should evaluate the

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1 pipeline's possible environmental and safety impacts,
2 consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act
3 or NEPA.

4 As a consequence, the State Department
5 prepared an environmental impact statement or EIS
6 consistent with NEPA to evaluate the proposed
7 pipeline's potential environmental and safety
8 impacts. In preparing the EIS over the past two and
9 a half years, we have conducted some 41 public
10 meetings along the pipeline route, and in Washington,
11 D.C. to gather public comments in developing the
12 scope and draft of the EIS.

13 On August 26th we released the final EIS,
14 which addresses the more than 250,000 comments from
15 the public comment period. The Final EIS is just one
16 factor considered in the review process. It does not
17 represent a final decision on the permit application.

18 Now as we move into the national interest
19 determination phase, the Department of State is
20 compiling additional information to determine if the
21 proposed Keystone XL pipeline is in the national
22 interest and decide whether to grant or deny the

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1 permit.

2 Now turning to the ground rules for this
3 public meeting. We hope to have the opportunity to
4 listen to everyone who wishes to speak; and in order
5 to allow the maximum amount of participation, we ask
6 you to limit your comments to no more than three to
7 five minutes. And because of the number of people
8 who have signed up to speak, we really encourage you
9 to limit your remarks to three minutes. The amount
10 of time you will be allowed to comment will
11 ultimately depend on the number of people who have
12 signed up to share their points of view.

13 Given the strong interest in this issue,
14 it may not be possible for everyone who would like to
15 speak to do so. If you do not have that opportunity,
16 you can turn in your remarks today. I think there's a
17 cardboard box on the stage where you can drop your
18 prepared remarks if you don't have the opportunity to
19 deliver them. You can also provide your written
20 remarks on the back of the sheet of paper that was
21 handed to you when you entered the room; and you can
22 also submit your written comments via mail, fax,

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1 e-mail or on line. The handout you received provides
2 all of the instructions you need for the submission
3 of written comments. Written comments will be
4 accepted through October 9 of this year.

5 With the exception of any elected
6 officials who wish to speak, speakers will make their
7 comments on a first-come, first served basis by sign
8 in number. When your number is called, we ask you to
9 come to the microphone, state your name and
10 affiliation, and off your comments. If you have an
11 even number please line up in the aisle on my left,
12 and if you have an odd number, please line up on the
13 aisle to my right.

14 As you speak, you will be timed. Again,
15 our goal is to provide at least three minutes per
16 person; but it could be less depending on the number
17 of speakers. A card will be displayed when you have
18 one minute remaining and when your time is up.

19 We respectfully request you to finish your
20 comments in the allotted time. If you go beyond your
21 allotted time, it is possible that your microphone
22 will be turned off, but that will be done as a last

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1 resort.

2 Let me reiterate that Department of State
3 officials are here to listen. We will not be
4 engaging in a question and answer session. We
5 understand there are strong views on both sides of
6 this issue, and ask that in fairness to everyone,
7 those who choose to speak be allowed to do so without
8 interruption.

9 All oral and written comments will be
10 considered as part of our Record of Decision, and
11 will be reviewed by the Department of State during
12 the decision-making process. All comments made here
13 will be transcribed by our official reporter.

14 We plan on taking a break at 3:30 p.m. We
15 may need to take a break at 2 o'clock for the
16 reporter, so that he can get up and stretch; it's
17 quite a chore for him to sit and take comments for
18 such a long period of time. And so if we can give
19 him five minutes at 2 p.m., I'm sure he'd appreciate
20 it.

21 After the break at 3:30 p.m. we will
22 resume the public meeting at 4 o'clock.

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1 Again, we wish to stress that the
2 Department of State has not yet made a decision on
3 this matter. Thank you for your interest and for
4 coming to this meeting. We'd like to start the
5 proceedings now with the first speaker.

6 Will you come to the microphone and state
7 your name and affiliation.

8 MR. WHATLEY: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Michael Whatley, I'm the Executive Vice President for
10 Consumer Energy Alliance. CEA is made up of more
11 than 250,000 individuals and over 165 affiliate
12 organizations that represent every sector of the U.S.
13 economy, including truckers, highway users and
14 shippers, manufacturers, iron and steel producers,
15 farmers and chemical manufacturers and energy
16 producers.

17 CEA strongly supports the Keystone XL
18 people because of the economic benefits it will
19 provide. Not only to Nebraska but to the nation as a
20 whole. The pipeline will create more than 7,500 jobs
21 in Nebraska and over 120,000 jobs total across the
22 United States. Even more, this project will generate

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1 over \$11 million in state and local taxes for
2 Nebraska, and create \$20 billion in economic growth
3 nationwide. That's a lot of money that will go to
4 improving schools, roads and hospitals.

5 The Keystone XL pipeline project will also
6 strengthen our national security. Canada is our
7 neighbor, our ally and our largest trading partner.
8 The 700,000 barrels of oil per day that this pipeline
9 will bring to the Gulf Coast refineries will be
10 coming from places like Oklahoma, Montana, the
11 Dakotas, and Canada. It is not subject to violent
12 revolutions like we have seen this year in Egypt and
13 Libya. It cannot be used as a political tool, like
14 OPEC and Russian oil can. It is highly discounted
15 from the prices we pay for our oil from the Persian
16 Gulf, and will help drive down fuel prices for both
17 our military and American drivers.

18 Not only will the pipeline bring great
19 economic and energy security benefits to Nebraska and
20 the United States, it will do so without harming our
21 water or our environment. The State Department's
22 extensive environmental review of the pipeline

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1 concluded there is no scenario in which the Northern
2 High Plains Aquifer would be adversely affected.

3 The State Department also studied over a
4 dozen other routes for the pipeline, and found the
5 current route is the safest alternative, and that
6 alternative routes would disturb land and cross more
7 bodies of water than the proposed route.

8 Over 20,000 miles of pipeline already
9 cross the Ogallala. Keystone XL will be built with
10 state-of-the-art technology, and pipelines are the
11 safest, most efficient way to transport oil.

12 To conclude, it is clear that it is in the
13 national interest to allow construction of this
14 important pipeline. Because it will be
15 environmentally safe, will create thousands of high
16 paying jobs, will significantly boost the U.S.
17 economy and enhance our energy security, CEA asks on
18 behalf of energy consumers nationwide that the
19 administration grant the Presidential Permit and
20 allow the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 If we can have the next three to four
2 speakers line up so that we can get to as many
3 speakers as possible, I'd really appreciate it.

4 Speaker No. 2.

5 MS. HUTFLESS: (off mic)...my right to
6 speak, thank you.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 3

8 MR. KIELY: I am Joe Kiely, I am the Vice
9 President of Operations for the Ports-to-Plains
10 Alliance, including the Heartland Expressway
11 Association here in Nebraska.

12 The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is a
13 grassroots coalition of over 120 cities, counties,
14 businesses, economic development organizations and
15 chambers of commerce from a ten state transportation
16 and economic region that runs from Texas to Alberta,
17 Canada. The Keystone pipeline is proposed to go
18 through our region, and our members are the most
19 likely to be impacted by any positive or negative
20 impacts.

21 The Keystone XL pipeline will provide
22 significant economic benefits for our region, some

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1 20,000 manufacturing and construction jobs that are
2 badly needed. Especially important in rural
3 America, where we see population declines in the past
4 few decades. During the construction the taxes that
5 will come to both state and local governments will
6 help them struggling to balance their budgets.

7 As leaders from the region that the
8 Keystone pipeline will traverse, we applaud the
9 Department of State's thoroughness in the approval
10 process, and appreciate the multiple opportunities
11 for public input on the project. You have fully
12 analyzed the environmental impact and rightfully
13 concluded that there are no substantial economic
14 concerns that should prevent the construction of this
15 valuable energy infrastructure project.

16 We were particularly interested in the
17 potential of the Ogallala Aquifer, the major source
18 of drinking water not only in Nebraska but across
19 many of our states. And yet it was determined by a
20 multiyear study that different routes would disturb
21 more land and cross more water bodies than the
22 proposed route.

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1 It's critical to our country's efforts to
2 reduce our dependence on Middle East and Venezuelan
3 oil as well as increasing our access to supplies from
4 Canada, our neighbor and loyal ally. It's also to
5 domestic supplies that are available from the Bakken
6 formation in Montana and North Dakota.

7 The pipeline will displace about half of
8 the oil that the U.S. currently imports from the
9 Middle East. The Keystone pipeline is clearly in the
10 nation's interest; will be a valuable tool in
11 strengthening our national security and energy
12 security; therefore we respectfully request that upon
13 the completion of the review period, the Department
14 of State move expeditiously to approve the pipeline
15 and grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit it
16 needs to proceed.

17 In addition to my statement that I will
18 enter, I have a letter from 29 mayors of cities, 19
19 county commissioner or county judges, and 65
20 signators in total, including our Board of Directors.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 Speaker No. 4.

2 BRIG GENERAL AMUNDSON: My name is
3 Brigadier General (Retired) Roma Amundson. I served
4 33 years in the United States Army/Nebraska National
5 Guard.

6 I support the Keystone pipeline expansion
7 in the United States, and the reason that I do so is
8 related to national security concerns. Our national
9 security is negatively impacted by two things: Our
10 budget deficit, and dependency on foreign oil. I
11 believe that the Keystone pipeline expansion
12 addresses both concerns.

13 Our budget deficit and dependency on
14 foreign oil cause the United States to run the risk
15 of being subjected to foreign policies and threats
16 from other countries. Countries holding our debt and
17 those importing oil to us can pull our strings, so to
18 speak, by threatening us on the basis of our fiscal
19 situation and our energy needs.

20 Let me give two examples. As of December
21 2010, \$4.4 trillion of United States debt are held by
22 foreign countries and international corporations, the

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1 first ten being China, Japan, United Kingdom, oil
2 exporters Brazil, the Caribbean banking centers,
3 Taiwan, Russia, Hong Kong and Switzerland. China has
4 over \$1,160 billion of our debt, and because of that,
5 one top Chinese money manager asked Tim Geitner for a
6 favor; to press our Federal Reserve to speed the
7 approval of China's \$1.2 billion investment in Morgan
8 Stanley.

9 China also shifted its United States
10 Treasury holdings away from the longer-term notes,
11 which impacted our borrowing rates and it also holds
12 our debt in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two very
13 large corporations in financial trouble, which touch
14 the lives of many thousands of homeowners.

15 Second example, ten foreign countries
16 import 75 percent of the United States oil supply:
17 Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Nigeria, Iraq, Angola,
18 Canada, Mexico, Algeria, Brazil and Kuwait.
19 Venezuela is the fourth largest importer of oil to
20 the United States and is openly hostile to us. In
21 fact, Hugo Chavez warned the United States over its
22 Iran policy, and because of the importance of

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1 Venezuela's oil to us forced us to consider his
2 threats more seriously than what we would have if we
3 were not so dependent on their oil.

4 Saudia Arabia imports oil to the United
5 States while at the same time gives financial support
6 to groups having Islamic fundamentalist ties.
7 Obviously, some of its national objectives run
8 counter to those of the United States; yet because we
9 are dependent upon Saudia Arabia's oil imports, we
10 deal with them.

11 So enter the Keystone pipeline. Canada
12 and the United States share a cultural, political and
13 economic interest. Canada is a friendly and reliable
14 neighbor, and even now is our number one source of
15 imported oil. Working with them on the Keystone
16 pipeline will strengthen our energy security by
17 increasing the imports from them and allowing us to
18 transport some of our own domestic oil from the
19 northern states to refineries, thus easing our
20 dependence on imports from countries unfriendly to us
21 or not sharing common objectives.

22 I do understand that people are worried

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1 that the pipelines planned to cross the Ogallala
2 Aquifer may adversely affect us and our environment;
3 however, I believe that those concerns have been
4 adequately addressed by the economic impact study.

5 Franklin Delano Roosevelt said during his
6 first inaugural speech that "the only thing we have
7 to fear is fear itself." I believe that the fear of
8 what potentially could happen in the future regarding
9 the pipeline's possible impact on the environment,
10 specifically the Ogallala Aquifer, is one that should
11 be balanced against the actual needs of our national
12 security.

13 First, we need jobs, employment and
14 domestic industrial strength to reduce our budget
15 deficit, which is a millstone around our nation's
16 neck; and second, if our national policy continues to
17 be one that restricts our own domestic energy
18 production, we need to rely upon friendly and
19 reliable sources such as Canada to get the oil needed
20 by the United States. Our energy security would be
21 significantly strengthened by having the Keystone
22 pipeline as would our industrial base.

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1 For these reasons, relating to national
2 security, I support the Keystone pipeline.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 5.

6 Good afternoon. I am State Senator Jim
7 Smith, and I represent the 14th Legislative District
8 of the Nebraskan Unicameral, where I serve on the
9 Natural Resources Committee.

10 Last session, we had much discussion on
11 this issue, and I am here today to express my support
12 for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, and
13 the significant economic and energy security benefits
14 it will bring to my constituents and to the great
15 people of Nebraska.

16 As a State legislator, I know well the
17 difficulties that this recession has had on local
18 economies and on Nebraska's families and businesses.
19 However, this construction project and the operation
20 of the completed pipeline will provide economic
21 benefits to Nebraska by creating thousands of much-
22 needed jobs, by creating new business activity, and

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1 by contributing over \$11 million in state and local
2 taxes.

3 As many of our businesses here in Nebraska
4 understand, Canada is one of our best customers,
5 purchasing over \$1.3 billion in Nebraska goods and
6 services every year. Supporting the construction of
7 the pipeline and continued development of North
8 American energy resources will only serve to expand
9 trade between our two countries.

10 Now I understand that many of my
11 constituents, and many across Nebraska have concerns
12 about the environmental safety of this project,
13 specifically its potential impact on the Ogallala
14 Aquifer. Fortunately, the Department of State shared
15 our concerns during its extensive, three-year
16 environmental assessment of the project.

17 During its review, the Department of State
18 examined several oil spill scenarios and the
19 potential impacts a spill could have on the aquifer.
20 In its Final Environmental Impact Statement the
21 Department of State concluded that, and I quote: "In
22 no spill incident scenario would the entire Northern

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1 High Plains Aquifer system be adversely affected"
2 unquote.

3 Furthermore, the Department of State
4 examined over a dozen alternative routes, including
5 five alternatives that would avoid or minimize the
6 length traversed over the aquifer. However, it was
7 determined that these alternate routes would, quote
8 "disturb more lands and cross more bodies of water
9 than the proposed route" unquote.

10 Clearly, the route chosen is the most
11 optimal choice for efficiency, safety and
12 environmental protection. I believe the operator,
13 TransCanada, will construct and operate the pipeline
14 at the highest degrees of safety; but I also know
15 that officials like me will work to ensure that
16 TransCanada does not waiver in its commitment to
17 environmental protection.

18 In conclusion, Nebraska businesses,
19 consumers and taxpayers, will all gain great economic
20 and energy security benefits from this project.
21 Therefore I strongly urge the Department of State to
22 conclude that the Keystone XL pipeline is in the

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1 nation's best interest and to issue the Presidential
2 Permit as swiftly as possible.

3 I thank you for coming to visit us in
4 Lincoln today, and for taking time to listen to
5 Nebraskans. Thank you.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 Speaker No. 6.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. WHITEHEAD: Good morning. My name is
10 Mark Whitehead, and I'm testifying as President of
11 the Nebraska Petroleum Marketers Convenience Store
12 Association.

13 On August 16th, our Board passed a
14 resolution in support of the Keystone XL pipeline.
15 We do not do so lightly; we fully recognize that many
16 of our members' customers had mixed feelings about
17 this project. We recognize that our profits would
18 not be affected by this pipeline. In fact that, our
19 profit margins are affected by what our competition
20 does in the street.

21 As the last in the second last link to a
22 supply chain, we understand that this is the most

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1 efficient and safest distribution system in the
2 world. With a day-to-day realizing the effects of
3 the different energy policies and the market
4 conditions that affect the energy that we and our
5 customers depend on.

6 Since we live with these market conditions
7 every day, we don't have the luxury of taking
8 philosophical stances on visions of what things would
9 be like if oil and gasoline weren't interwoven so
10 tightly into our daily lives and well-being. The
11 fact is, petroleum has done more to improve the
12 standard of living over the last century than any
13 other single innovation.

14 While other energy technologies will
15 emerge, petroleum will remain our most reliable
16 source of energy for the foreseeable future. We take
17 pride in our position as a provider to our customers
18 of a product that fuels their freedom, which is to
19 say their cars. Our customer's second largest
20 expense in their personal budget is what they commit
21 to their personal transportation.

22 We passed this resolution because we

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1 recognize the importance of a safe and reliable
2 energy source to our customers. We also recognize
3 the importance of delivering this product in an
4 environmentally-responsible fashion; to do otherwise
5 makes no sense.

6 Speaking personally, I am proud of mine
7 and my company's efforts in conservation. In the
8 early Nineties, we took part in a development project
9 where we donated 100 acres of pasture ground to the
10 Lower Platte South Natural Resource District to
11 restore indo saline wetlands, which is the home of
12 the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle.

13 We hold the development out as a model of
14 what can happen when business and environmental
15 interests work hand-in-hand to accomplish a project.
16 We are proud of the fact that we are in the State's
17 natural resources highest district honor, the Master
18 Conservationist Award. We were the first company
19 that this award has ever been presented to.

20 I also have been working for the last 20
21 years on the Nebraskan Environmental Quality Council,
22 where I currently serve as the chair. Over those 20

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1 years, I've seen time and again how well the Nebraska
2 Department of Environmental Quality has balanced
3 environmental and development issues to the
4 betterment of our State.

5 I have the utmost confidence that they
6 will be able to preside over this pipeline. As
7 owners of underground storage tanks, we know what
8 it's like to take responsibility for the
9 environmental consequences of our business.
10 Currently there are 2 million barrels of petroleum
11 product being moved through 25,000 miles of pipeline
12 over the Ogallala Aquifer already. We have
13 recognized the efforts of TransCanada to make this
14 the safest pipeline ever constructed in the United
15 States. We fully understand that to do otherwise
16 makes no sense, because they are both morally and
17 financially responsible for any problems that may
18 occur.

19 We don't financially benefit directly from
20 the pipeline; our suppliers will provide us with
21 product with or without it. But our members hear the
22 concerns from our customers every single day about

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1 the high price they pay for fuel. To the extent that
2 this pipeline will provide product efficiently and
3 safely, it will make our country more secure and
4 provide a more economical product to deliver to our
5 members' customers, then as an association, we
6 enthusiastically support it.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 7.

9 MR. NESBIT: For the record, my name is
10 Tom Nesbit, I'm a retired, 33-year law enforcement
11 veteran. I've spent over 27 years in the Nebraska
12 State Patrol, and am the former colonel and
13 superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol.

14 I appreciate the opportunity to be here
15 today to share my thoughts on Keystone XL pipeline,
16 and I'm here to support the Department of State's
17 approval of the Keystone XL pipeline project granting
18 TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to
19 begin building this pipeline.

20 I believe what many people are forgetting
21 in this debate on the Keystone XL project is the
22 reason why America needs this pipeline. The primary

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1 form of energy that fuels our transport, that drives
2 our trucks, planes, school buses, ambulance and
3 safety patrol cars, you name is, is gasoline. And
4 gasoline comes from oil.

5 And we will need oil to fuel our
6 transportation requirements for decades to come, a
7 fact even our own United States Department of Energy
8 acknowledges. And unless some miraculous invention
9 that will enable us to cost-effectively replace all
10 of the millions of vehicles we have on the road today
11 that rely on oil, I believe that fact to be true:
12 America needs oil, and that oil can come from a
13 friendly, reliable source in Canada via the Keystone
14 XL pipeline.

15 Let me now focus on the need for oil from
16 a friendly, reliable source, from the perspective of
17 protecting the safety of American citizens as a
18 dedicated law enforcement, public servant for over 30
19 years. I became a state trooper in 1978, and served
20 the State of Nebraska in law enforcement for most of
21 my life, and most recently as a superintendent of law
22 enforcement and public safety also known as the

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1 Nebraska State Patrol.

2 The Nebraska State Patrol, unlike some
3 other state in the United States, is the only
4 statewide, full service, law enforcement agency. So
5 our duties include working with communities to
6 improve public safety, enforcing traffic, enforcing
7 criminal and drug laws, investigating crimes as well
8 as enforcing the laws and federal regulations
9 pertaining to commercial motor carriers.

10 As such, our State Patrol officers drive,
11 on an average, over 10 million miles per year. I've
12 seen, over my 30 years in law enforcement, with six
13 years as a superintendent and the past six years
14 since I retired, the difficult choices that have to
15 be made when costs, such as the cost of gasoline,
16 rises. Law enforcement agencies have fixed budgets,
17 and as much as we'd like to seek an increase in
18 funding when our costs rise, that is not always the
19 case, especially in these tight economic times.

20 Rising fuel costs require law enforcement
21 agencies across the country to reduce the number of
22 patrols on the street, or where we patrol, or cutting

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1 in other areas such as time, reducing miles, training
2 of new hires, all of which directly impact public
3 safety.

4 And these impacts are felt not only in law
5 enforcement but other areas of public safety such as
6 fire department, ambulances and other emergency
7 medical vehicles. The problem is not only limited to
8 Nebraska. The same situation is playing out in
9 police stations, highway patrol departments,
10 hospitals and fire departments across the country.

11 So when we rely on our source of oil from
12 countries which do not share our interests, and
13 crises such as that which recently occurred in the
14 Middle East drive up the price of crude oil and thus
15 the price for gasoline, our ability to protect the
16 safety and well-being of our citizens is compromised.

17 The decision seems to be straightforward.
18 America should obtain our oil from a steady, reliable
19 and friendly neighbor in order to protect the safety
20 and well-being of our citizens. Yes, I care about
21 the environment. I've been blessed to live in this
22 beautiful State of Nebraska for over 50 years. I

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1 have two beautiful children and have been blessed
2 with a grandchild as well. However, I also respect
3 the diligence and breadth of analysis conducted by
4 the Department of State and other federal agencies in
5 producing this environmental impact statement.

6 The Department of State has determined the
7 pipeline to be environmentally safe. And so I
8 respectfully request the Department expedite the
9 approval of the Keystone XL pipeline and grant
10 TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to
11 proceed.

12 Pro bono publico, which is a Nebraska
13 State Patrol motto, translated from Latin, Pro bono
14 publico means "for the good of the public." Thank
15 you for your time.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 (Applause/boos)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 8, if you can
19 begin by stating your name and affiliation.

20 (Audience shouting)

21 MR. BARNETT: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Patrick Barnett. I live in Omaha, Nebraska, and my

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1 family are lifelong Nebraska residents. I'm here to
2 speak on them, the small businesses that our family
3 owns, and our employees.

4 I'm here to speak on behalf of the
5 pipeline project, and we want the State Department to
6 issue the permit. Frankly, our family is quite
7 appalled that this has become even an issue. At a
8 time where we have such high unemployment, the
9 highest in recent memory; at a time when we're
10 embroiled in not one but three regional wars, it
11 seems nonsensical to even be arguing this issue.

12 You'll hear more about the economics and
13 about the environmental studies later on this
14 afternoon, but for our family it's become personal.
15 As a prior service member, I can share with you that
16 two of my prior units are on fifth deployment in
17 seven years. Many of our cousins, and including my
18 own brother, are currently deployed and have been for
19 three years now; they're reservists, and they're
20 under stop-loss.

21 We see this as a national security issue,
22 as an economic issue. Our service members that are

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1 deployed create a hardship within the family. This
2 pipeline will go a long way towards alleviating that
3 stress, and the stress that Nebraska families will
4 feel far into the future. So we want you to keep in
5 mind that we feel it is an economic interest of the
6 United States, it's a security interest, to issue the
7 permit; let's get this project done and let's get
8 these guys back to work.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Before I call the next
12 number, I understand that Senator Haar is here, and I
13 would like to give him the opportunity to speak.

14 (Applause)

15 SEN. HAAR: Thank you very much. My name
16 is Senator Ken Haar and I represent Legislative
17 District 21 in the Nebraska Legislature. I'm on the
18 Nebraska's Resources Committee, and the first advice
19 I got was this: Always remember, "whiskey is for
20 drinking and water is for fighting" and we are in a
21 fight for our water.

22 (Applause)

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1 TransCanada is in a fight for more profit.
2 It's the water we drink, it's the water that enables
3 our agricultural economy, it's the water that is more
4 valuable than oil.

5 (Applause)

6 And I'd like to talk about national
7 interest today, but also about Nebraska interest.
8 And I think Americans today assume that when you talk
9 about national interest, it's not coming from the top
10 down, from Washington or Ottawa, but that's upside
11 down, because the Keystone XL pipeline is planned to
12 go through Nebraska, national interest starts with
13 Nebraskans.

14 (Applause)

15 With all due respect to this committee, I
16 would say today the majority of Nebraskans feel like
17 national interest is being defined by the federal
18 government, and TransCanada, and that you don't give
19 a damn about Nebraska.

20 (Applause)

21 What I'm asking is that you move the
22 pipeline away from the Sand Hills and the aquifer.

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1 Despite the slick feel-good commercials from
2 TransCanada, the majority of Nebraskans clearly agree
3 with those who booed the TransCanada commercial at
4 the first two Cornhusker football games.

5 (Applause)

6 And the majority of Nebraskans agree with
7 U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, U.S. Senator Ben Nelson,
8 Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and Governor Heineman,
9 who all have asked that the pipeline be rerouted
10 around the Sand Hills and the Ogallala Aquifer.

11 (Applause)

12 And here's part of our concern, you see.
13 And this comes directly from the supplemental draft
14 EIS. That going through the current proposed
15 pipeline corridor for 65 miles -- and this is from
16 your report -- going through approximately 65 miles,
17 the groundwater depth is 10 feet or less from the
18 surface. In the Sand Hills, there are lakes that
19 appear at times in the year; they're called wet
20 meadows, and they're all over the place. Less than
21 10 feet from the surface, you drill in places -- in
22 many places in the Sand Hills if you put a post hole

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1 in the ground, you strike water.

2 And I may be a skeptic, but I find big
3 holes in the Final EIS. And I'm going to name a few
4 of those today. The fact that the State Department
5 and TransCanada use the same independent
6 environmental consultant, Cardno Entrix.

7 (Applause)

8 Quoting from the Entrix website, quote:
9 "Keystone contracted with Cardno Entrix as the third
10 party contractor to assist the U.S. in preparing the
11 EIS." Sounds sort of like the fox hired his
12 independent contractor to guard the hen house.

13 (Applause)

14 I frankly think that it raises real
15 questions of integrity with the FEIS. And then you
16 ignore a Nebraska scientist. You put one in front
17 that says there's no problem. You ignore Dr. John
18 Gates and Wayne Wold who have said there's
19 insufficient scientific research for us to accurately
20 predict how leaking oil would behave in the water-
21 saturated Sand Hills. And these are UNL water
22 scientists who conduct research on water flow and

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1 contamination.

2 And then there's Dr. John Stansbury from
3 UNL, who is a water and risk assessment expert, has
4 concluded that the risk of catastrophic pipeline
5 failure is far greater than TransCanada's estimate.

6 (Applause)

7 And by the way, in the FEIS, his
8 conclusion is dismissed by three TransCanada staff
9 members. So why can't the national interest and
10 Nebraska interest work hand-in-hand, and how can that
11 happen if Nebraska is not at the table?

12 We need more time. And what I'm asking
13 today is, we need more time for your decision. Why?
14 Well, for one thing, it's only in the recent past
15 that Nebraskans and Americans have become aware of
16 the meaning of 'catastrophic' and 'worst case
17 scenario.' British Petroleum in the Gulf, Fukushima
18 Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan, the major oil
19 spill, a million gallons of oil spilling into the
20 Kalamazoo River. 42,000 gallons spilling into the
21 Yellowstone River.

22 (Applause)

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1 There is a reason for concern. We have to
2 be concerned about risk; it's not simply a
3 philosophical discussion.

4 (Applause)

5 So since my time is running short, I would
6 say please delay your decision -- please delay your
7 decision --

8 (Audience shouting)

9 -- and if not, please -- we will continue.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: May I just ask everyone to
11 respect each other? Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 SEN. HAAR: Thank you very much. I'll
14 finish up right now.

15 If more time is out of the question, then
16 reject the pipeline altogether. But we're not giving
17 up; we'll continue to fight for our precious water.
18 Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 9.

22 MR. HEDMAN: Good morning. My name is

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1 Gary Hedman, I'm President and CEO of Southern Public
2 Power District. I'm testifying in support of the
3 Keystone XL pipeline.

4 (Applause)

5 And in doing so, I might alter my comments
6 just a bit due to the previous speaker. But what
7 occurs to me is that many of these people are opposed
8 to TransCanada because they appear to be a big
9 corporation, and we've learned in this country that
10 you just can't trust big corporations.

11 (Audience yelling.)

12 They don't know them, and they fear their
13 drinking water will become contaminated as the
14 pipeline would leak.

15 It's a fear, in my opinion, that just has
16 not been justified by any scientific studies that
17 have been conducted.

18 (Audience yelling.)

19 But they still don't know TransCanada, and
20 why should we trust them with our water?

21 In my position with Southern Power
22 District, I've been working with various officials

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1 from this company for three years. We've had
2 numerous face-to-face meetings about providing
3 electric service to their pumping stations. There
4 are four other power districts that are involved in
5 these meetings.

6 We have found them to be reliable,
7 reputable; they deal with issues that we have faced
8 in a very professional manner; they accept
9 responsibility where and when they need to.

10 Nebraska is kind of a rural state, and we
11 still have something called 'your word'; and we've
12 come to learn that their word is good.

13 Prior to this line they built another
14 pipeline; there were no huge protests on that
15 pipeline; it went a little bit east of my service
16 area, and I visited with those people over there and
17 found that they've had the same experience; just
18 quality throughout the construction of the pipeline.

19 My experience even goes back about 20
20 years ago, when TransCanada came to me and repowered
21 a pipeline that went from the West to the East across
22 our state. It's been a long time ago, but that was a

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1 good experience as well, and they were a great
2 customer.

3 So, with knowing the company, having
4 experience with them coupled with studies that show
5 the pipeline is not a significant risk to our
6 aquifer, Southern Power District's Board of
7 Directors, all publicly-elected Board members, voted
8 unanimously to support the project. It does go
9 through our service area and we will be serving one
10 of their pumping stations. Serving the pumping
11 station will benefit all of our electric customers.

12 All of our Board members are farmers; they
13 are all irrigators; they all irrigate from the
14 Ogallala Aquifer. They depend on this water for
15 their livelihood. We serve 8,500 irrigation wells,
16 330,000. They're all dependent on this water source.

17 Unlike a lot of the country right now, our
18 economy is good. It is good because of agriculture.
19 Corn prices and bean prices are high, and they're
20 high and we're producing a lot of them, primarily
21 because of irrigation.

22 So from that standpoint, my Board is not

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1 going to take an unwarranted risk by supporting this.
2 They were adamant enough about the positive benefits
3 from the pipeline that at our last Board meeting they
4 voted to write a letter to Governor Heineman, asking
5 him to reconsider his position.

6 We feel like we provide the power that
7 powers the economy through agriculture, powering the
8 irrigation wells that create that great product that
9 turns into dollars, and the dollars into our economy.
10 We know that we've been saying for way too long that
11 we need to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. I
12 can remember the first Arab oil embargo and the gas
13 lines. This is our opportunity to do that. This is
14 our opportunity in Nebraska to set these fears aside,
15 consider the economic development benefits that come
16 to our state. Look at what's in the best for the
17 national interest. Get our people back to work, and
18 think about what's in the national interest.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 10.

22 MR. FRIEND: Thank you, Ms. Hobgood and

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1 Mr. Stewart, thank you for being here. My name is
2 Mike Friend. I'm a former State Senator from
3 Northwest Omaha. I now am Director of the Nebraska
4 Chapter of Americans for Prosperity.

5 (Boos heard.)

6 Americans for Prosperity is an
7 organization committed to promoting free market and
8 free enterprise principles throughout the nation.
9 For the past 14 months, varieties of activists have
10 been doing their best to try to stop construction of
11 the new Keystone XL pipeline here in Nebraska.

12 Now with two hearings this week, I'm
13 hearing from plenty of pro-economic growth and pro-
14 growth citizens in general who are speaking out to
15 support this opportunity to bring good-paying jobs to
16 Nebraska and to expand our property tax base without
17 raising the tax levy on the backs of citizens who
18 can't afford it right now.

19 Let's take a look at the facts. Keystone
20 XL would expand export capacity, as some have
21 mentioned earlier today, by over 700,000 barrels per
22 day, allowing more oil to come from Canada to the

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1 United States. With this kind of capacity, America
2 could safely import almost 4 million barrels of oil
3 from Canada per day by the year 2020. That's double
4 what we currently import from the Persian Gulf.

5 Make no mistake, this is a once-in-a-
6 generation opportunity to ensure energy security for
7 generations of Americans and strengthen ties with one
8 of America's closest allies.

9 Without the pipeline, experts agree --
10 many experts agree that the free market will take
11 this safe Canadian oil to areas like China.
12 Foregoing construction would also mean losing \$7
13 billion spending construction on the pipeline which
14 would result in the creation of some 20,000 good
15 paying job being lost, jobs America desperately needs
16 right now, and Nebraska does, too.

17 But the facts don't matter to some;
18 there's a lot of misinformation out there, and most
19 of it is to scare the public. This is not so much
20 about the Keystone XL pipeline as it is about general
21 opposition to fossil fuel and fossil fuel use. But
22 the fact of the matter is, the fossil fuel use is a

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1 way of life for us in the United States right now,
2 whether we like it or not.

3 The pipelines are the safest way to
4 transport this oil. But if we're going to do it by
5 truck or by sea, do you think the protesters and
6 certain types of activists will be out there dealing
7 with the same subject matter in a different form? I
8 would say yes.

9 Some are not motivated by scientific
10 evidence. Some are not motivated by economic
11 reality; but motivated by ideology.

12 As citizens, what we need to do is step
13 back, take some deep breaths and understand what
14 we're dealing with here. Educate ourselves to the
15 best of our ability. Examine the scientific facts,
16 the economic facts right now. Look at this proposal
17 and don't be swayed by emotion. I urge my fellow
18 Nebraskans to do exactly that; analyze it, and then
19 come to the conclusion that I have -- by the way,
20 I've lived in just about every corner of this state;
21 I understand it. I know it, I feel like I know it.
22 I think it's a common sense proposal.

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1 That's all I have. Thank you.

2 (Applause and boos.)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 11.

4 MR. FROST: My name is Wayne Frost, I'm a
5 rancher from -- (Hooting and hollering.) St. Paul,
6 Nebraska. And I think that we should move this
7 pipeline.

8 And the thing that I look at my fellow
9 people back here, I think to myself: If we move the
10 pipeline, it's about 50, 60, 70 miles longer, they
11 will get the same amount or more work; they want
12 jobs.

13 (Applause)

14 And I buy that. And I am in favor of
15 moving this pipeline to the other side of the, out
16 around the aquifer, going to the East part of the
17 State; and there's a pipeline there now, and it is
18 also had its troubles. That pipeline has had 10 or
19 12 leaks since they built it.

20 (Applause)

21 Now I don't want to look at my orange-clad
22 fellow Americans. I think they need the jobs, I

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1 think we can get the jobs for them, and all we need
2 is their help in getting that pipeline moved to where
3 it ought to be.

4 (Applause)

5 I'm a rancher from the central part of the
6 State, and it's along the edge of the Sand Hills; and
7 I know that this water moves a lot further than these
8 people are telling you whenever they say 'you spill
9 oil, it won't move.' I know it moves. I majored in
10 soil conservation and I'm a soil scientist from the
11 University of Nebraska, back when I was in college,
12 which is a lot longer than most of these people have
13 been alive.

14 I tell you, I appreciate what the college
15 did for me, and things that it taught me, and it
16 taught me that water moves. And I came from a ranch
17 that had irrigation wells, and I've seen that water
18 move, the drawdown of individual wells affecting the
19 model water pump by the other wells. And we can
20 start up our well out at the ranch, and when we first
21 started it up, it pumped a thousand gallons a minute.
22 When the neighbors' wells started up, which are less

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1 than a half mile to three quarters of a mile away,
2 our water, the production would drop down to 500 to
3 600 gallons per minute.

4 And water moves, underneath the soil it
5 moves a lot. All of the rivers in the Eastern part
6 of the State and all of the creeks in the Eastern
7 part of the State are fed by spring-fed water. There
8 will be water from the rains and so on, but the basic
9 water that runs down all them creeks and rivers is
10 water that is spring-fed from the Ogallala Aquifer.
11 And that needs to be taken into account, because
12 people say it don't move; it does move. And if it
13 spills these chemically-led oils that come down from
14 Canada, them chemicals will be in that water, it will
15 mix in the water just as fast as your cream and sugar
16 will mix in your coffee.

17 So it's something that it will move, and
18 chemicals will get in there. And TransCanada has
19 been in the position where they won't tell you what
20 those chemicals are. They may be severely
21 detrimental to human health; they may kill
22 grasshoppers, they may kill the corn when you pump

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1 that water out of the aquifer, a lot of that gets
2 into the surface. It comes down and it's going to
3 get in there.

4 There's no question, and eventually we're
5 going to have a spill, and whether we can afford to
6 have that -- and I respectfully agree with some of
7 the things that were said by the previous speakers,
8 but I don't think they took into account how much
9 that could happen if the chemicals that are in that
10 oil get into the water; and that is a very, very
11 severe thing that you should be considering as the
12 Department of State, of ruining the water supply by
13 the chemicals that are put in that oil. And you
14 insist that TransCanada tells you what the chemicals
15 are that are in that well.

16 (Applause)

17 I'm not a public speaker, and I don't know
18 whether I've covered everything to your satisfaction,
19 but the fact is, spring creek, it was a creek that
20 ran through my farm, and I pumped water out of it a
21 long time ago. Thank you.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 12.

3 MR. MCCOLLISTER: Thank you and thank you
4 for holding this hearing this afternoon. My name is
5 John McCollister, the Executive Director of the
6 Platte Institute for Economic Research. We are a
7 nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank in the State. We
8 promote individual responsibility, limited
9 government, and free enterprise, which is the reason
10 I am supporting this project.

11 In an effort to secure America's energy
12 independence from foreign exporters, there must be a
13 viable link for America to take advantage of the
14 growing supply of Canadian oil. TransCanada has
15 proposed a 1700-mile expansion to the Keystone
16 pipeline already in operation, as you know.

17 In addition to significantly reducing our
18 need to import oil from the Middle East, Nebraska
19 stands to reap significant economic benefits, with
20 more than \$150 million in new tax revenues, the State
21 will have more funds available for infrastructure
22 projects such as road improvements, expressways and

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1 new schools.

2 Despite significant economic energy
3 security benefits at the national and state level,
4 there are opponents of building a pipeline in
5 Nebraska. Unfortunately, many of the critics are
6 either misinformed or worse, intentionally
7 misinforming the public in order to advance a
8 political agenda. To be clear, many critics of the
9 TransCanada XL pipeline are not opposed to the
10 pipeline or its route; they're actually opposed to
11 further development of Canadian crude oil as an
12 American energy source.

13 Nebraska's currently caught in the middle
14 of an ideological fight between environmental
15 extremism and premarket forces. The debate is not
16 necessarily against the Keystone XL pipeline itself,
17 but what it represents to various political factions.

18 Consider which organizations are opposed
19 to the pipeline and funding the campaign against it.

20 (Audience calls.)

21 Sierra Club, Audubon, the Green Party,
22 Nebraskans for Peace, and Bold Nebraska.

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1 (Applause)

2 Nebraska is -- what these organizations
3 have in common is a desire to end America's
4 dependence on oil.

5 (Audience: Yes)

6 Special interest extremism is at the
7 center of this debate, not the particulars of the
8 pipeline, its route, oil sands or safety. The Green
9 movement is assembling against the Keystone XL
10 pipeline as one more front in the war against oil.
11 Examples of their actions are staging sit-ins and
12 arrests outside the White House, which requires time
13 --

14 (Applause)

15 -- and resources of law enforcement paid by the
16 taxpayers.

17 The proposed XL pipeline incorporates new
18 technology and the latest safety procedures, which
19 makes transporting oil through the pipeline the
20 safest and most energy-efficient choice. Jobs,
21 energy security and safety are very important to
22 Nebraskans, which is the reason I ask for you to join

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1 me in supporting the construction of the XL pipeline.

2 (Applause, booing.)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: May we have the next

4 speaker, please. Thank you.

5 MR. KNUDSEN: I am Herm Knudsen, a small

6 business owner from Ogallala, Nebraska. My house is

7 built on the Ogallala Aquifer. Water for our home

8 comes from a well drilled on our property.

9 I am testifying at this hearing in support

10 of my fellow entrepreneurs, the Keystone XL pipeline.

11 (Boos)

12 I am an entrepreneur. My mission is to

13 create a new industry based on milkweed, a plant that

14 grows wild in Nebraska. As I think about our

15 business, I look out and I see billions of milkweed

16 pods ready to be harvested. I look out and I see

17 opportunities to sell milkweed in down bedding, body

18 care and health products.

19 Our milkweed production equipment is a

20 1942 John Deere combine. We evicted raccoons from

21 the combine and dragged it out of the tree line. The

22 now clean, highly modified combine processes milkweed

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1 pods into three valuable raw material streams. From
2 these raw materials, we make exceptional consumer
3 products.

4 For 23 years, my family and I and very
5 dedicated employees have worked diligently and
6 persistently to achieve goals that lead to the
7 creation of this new industry based on milkweed. We
8 have sold equity in our company, we have borrowed a
9 lot of money, and pledged all of our assets.

10 Some people think we're crazy -- they may
11 be right. Nonetheless, even people who think we are
12 crazy shout to us: "Go for it." The people of
13 Keystone XL pipeline are entrepreneurs, too. Their
14 mission is to build and operate a large north/south
15 oil pipeline. The people of Keystone XL pipeline
16 look out and they see massive amounts of valuable
17 crude oil in the north. They look out and they see
18 opportunities to sell oil in the South. They look
19 out and they see an oil pipeline; dependable,
20 economical, secure and environmentally safe.

21 In sharp contrast to our 1942 John Deere
22 combine, Keystone XL production equipment is

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1 sophisticated pipeline that will cost billions of
2 dollars in job wages for labor and in materials
3 purchased, an effective economic stimulus package in
4 itself.

5 The financing of this project requires
6 Keystone XL to raise large amounts of equity and
7 debt. When this pipeline is complete, the people of
8 XL will safely transport valuable oil from the north
9 to the south. They will pay local and state taxes,
10 and they will not disturb the land. The people of XL
11 pipeline have successfully achieved many short term
12 goals to bring us to the point of this hearing today.
13 The people of XL pipeline have worked diligently and
14 persistently to position themselves to achieve their
15 mission to build and operate a large north-to-south
16 oil pipeline.

17 The people of Keystone XL pipeline are
18 ready, willing and able to complete this enormous
19 project. Denial of the Keystone XL application will
20 squelch entrepreneurship. Denial will destroy, hurt
21 and tarnish efforts to promote economic development.
22 Denial is a wrong choice, especially in this time of

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1 recession.

2 I believe all people in this hearing, all
3 government regulators and all people in Nebraska
4 should support this project and should "Go for it."

5 (Applause. Booing.)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 14, you have the
7 floor.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Ron Kaminski, and I have the privilege of serving as
10 Business Manager for the Laborers International
11 Union-North America, Local 1140 based in Nebraska.
12 And on behalf of our 700 members of Laborers Local
13 1140, and over half a million members of our
14 International Union, we would like to express our
15 support for the construction of the Keystone XL
16 pipeline.

17 Since 2006, Local 1140 has trained
18 hundreds of residents of Nebraska for pipeline work
19 here in the State. We constructed both the Rockies
20 Express natural gas pipeline and the first Keystone
21 pipeline, which is now operational.

22 In working on the Keystone pipeline, we

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1 worked with TransCanada. Our relationship with
2 TransCanada is a good relationship. In this
3 relationship they have invested in our people here in
4 Nebraska. As a result of that relationship with the
5 work we did on the Keystone pipeline, we were able to
6 open up a new training facility based in Omaha,
7 Nebraska.

8 At this facility we plan to expand our
9 pipeline training to include not only residents of
10 Nebraska, South Dakota and Western Iowa, but other
11 Midwestern states. When we worked on the Original
12 keystone project, the process was straightforward.
13 We all understood what we needed to do on that
14 project; and we took care of our responsibilities.

15 The line of communication between our
16 union and TransCanada was open, and we accomplished
17 construction of that pipeline without any major
18 problems. The project was completed on time with
19 skilled residents of the State of Nebraska.

20 In the last few months, you've heard a lot
21 of rhetoric about temporary jobs. All jobs in
22 construction are temporary; it's just a matter of how

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1 temporary they are. Wind turbines. We are now in
2 the process of building 193 wind turbines in
3 Southwestern Iowa; all of those jobs will be
4 completed in a six to nine month period. So every
5 construction project is temporary.

6 Our union took it upon ourselves here in
7 Nebraska and made the investment here to train people
8 from South Dakota, Western Iowa and Nebraska to do
9 the work here in the Midwest. So we have Nebraska
10 residents at this point in states all over the
11 country that reside here in Nebraska; but they work
12 on pipelines all across the country because of that
13 training we're able to provide here in Nebraska. In
14 other words, all these people are taxpayers of
15 Nebraska and will continue to be.

16 I personally, being a lifelong resident of
17 the State of Nebraska, understand people's concerns
18 with their land, and we care deeply about the
19 environment. That's why our members not only build
20 pipelines, they also build biodiesel plants, ethanol
21 plants, and construct wind turbines and wind turbine
22 farms.

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1 But the reality is, we are not going to be
2 totally energy independent or without the need for
3 fossil fuel in the next 25 years, and use of
4 petroleum will continue to be a component of our
5 natural energy needs.

6 Our union is very disturbed with how
7 TransCanada has been painted by certain environmental
8 groups here in the State. TransCanada has been a
9 fantastic employer and a great corporate citizen, in
10 our eyes. We have a great relationship with
11 TransCanada and we hope that the Keystone XL pipeline
12 will be a great project.

13 As TransCanada has stood by their joint
14 labor agreement to provide members with great jobs
15 with a great hourly wage, not only in health
16 insurance for the employees on the project but for
17 their families, and a penchant to look forward to
18 when they retire.

19 In closing, I urge the State Department, I
20 thank you for your long look at the environmental
21 impact of this project. I thank you for all your
22 work you've done, and we urge you to approve the

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1 permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 15.

5 MR. BAILEY: Thank you for being here

6 today and welcome to Nebraska. My name is Britton

7 Bailey, and I'm here on my own accord and have not

8 been paid to testify today.

9 (Applause)

10 I live in Lincoln, Nebraska and I am

11 opposed to the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline. I

12 agree with Nebraska Governor Heineman with regard to

13 the Final Environmental Impact Statement. We both

14 disagree with the analysis, and feel the XL pipeline

15 should not cross a substantial portion of the

16 Ogallala Aquifer. Each day we learn more about the

17 State Department's hiring of Entrix, an oil industry-

18 backed consulting firm who conducted the independent

19 environmental study for the XL pipeline.

20 This is a great concerns to Nebraskans,

21 and leaves a bitter, oily taste in our mouths. How

22 can we trust our drinking water to an analysis that

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1 is flawed? As Nebraskans, we demand an honest a
2 scientific and independent analysis of this project.
3 A trust has already been broken for the citizens of
4 Nebraska. We have started to question the kinds of
5 ethics that companies like TransCanada, the Alberta
6 tar sands investors and developers follow.

7 With TransCanada's recent attempts to
8 rebrand itself as "ethical oil" I ask myself these
9 questions: Is it ethical to Indigenous Canadians who
10 are sickened and dying downstream? Is it ethical to
11 the birds that die in the vast tailing ponds along
12 migratory routes? Is it ethical to Nebraska land
13 owners who are threatened into signing low dollar
14 leases or face eminent domain for an unapproved
15 project by a foreign country? I'm not even sure this
16 is legal.

17 Is it ethical for the State Department to
18 hire Entrix, consultants for TransCanada, to conduct
19 the independent environmental study for the XL
20 project?

21 (Voices: No)

22 Is it ethical to conduct hearings in

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1 Nebraska to hear Nebraska's testimony so that we can
2 be heard but allow TransCanada to bus in nonresident
3 outsiders to speak for us?

4 Is it a high dollar oil-ocracy or a fair
5 and just democracy that the State Department prefers?
6 Nebraskans are aware of TransCanada's track record
7 with the Keystone I pipeline: 14 spills in a year of
8 operation. We know that TransCanada is inexperienced
9 with building tar sands pipelines. They have only
10 one leaky tar sands pipeline under their belt.

11 Nebraskans question TransCanada's ability
12 to build a second pipeline of this magnitude through
13 the Ogallala Aquifer, the fragile Sand Hills region,
14 and under our scenic rivers. My advice to Secretary
15 of State Hillary Clinton and the State Department and
16 to President Obama is to deny the XL project. We are
17 at a historical moment where our self-inflicted
18 dependence on oil is forcing very dangerous, very
19 dangerous scenarios and outcomes upon us. Thank you
20 for being here.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 Speaker No. 16.

2 MS. BAILEY: My name is Barbara Bailey.

3 I'm a concerned Nebraska citizen who appreciates the
4 importance of the unique ecological treasures of the
5 Ogallala Aquifer and the fragile Nebraska Sand Hills.

6 I am outraged and angered by the long
7 history of environmental degradation at the hands of
8 greedy oil corporations.

9 (Applause)

10 I'm extremely disappointed in the Final
11 Environmental Impact Statement which suggested that
12 the proposed pipeline would have no significant
13 impact to resources along the pipeline corridor.
14 Recent documents obtained through the Freedom of
15 Information Act would further indicate strong
16 evidence of a pro-industry, biased conflict of
17 interest.

18 I welcome you here to our State and hope
19 that you will listen to our concerns with open mind.
20 From scientists and ecology advocates to landowners
21 and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, an ever-growing
22 number have written and acted in protest and

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1 opposition to the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline.

2 Their reward is not a huge profit, but environmental
3 and social justice.

4 (Applause)

5 Approval of the Keystone XL would increase
6 greenhouse gas production, boreal forest devastation,
7 the sacrifice to health and livelihood of indigenous
8 nations, allow destruction of scenic roadways by
9 mega-load equipment, increase air pollution in
10 refinery communities, threaten wildlife, and
11 jeopardize sustainable energy innovation.

12 Why should Nebraskans believe the empty
13 assurances of safety when TransCanada's own 30-inch
14 Keystone I pipeline experienced 14 spills in the
15 first year of operation, and their newly built Bison
16 gas pipeline recently exploded in Northeastern
17 Wyoming? This record speaks with an immense reality,
18 of the enormous potential risk posed by the 36-inch
19 Keystone XL pipeline carrying toxic and corrosive
20 diluted bitumen at high pressure.

21 As other major spills during the past year
22 indicate, the pollution is impossible to clean up.

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1 It is reprehensible that the Canadian government-
2 endorsed and subsidized oil industry is allowed to
3 bully our landowners with threats of unauthorized
4 eminent domain, put our drinking and irrigation water
5 and largest fresh water aquifer in North America at
6 risk of pollution, and threaten the fragile and
7 unique Sand Hills ecosystem, which cannot be properly
8 restored.

9 All for just one reason, so that a foreign
10 pipeline corporation and its investors can move their
11 toxic, landlocked product to the world market for
12 larger profits. I hope that you will have the
13 courage and the genius to save our land, our water and
14 our children's future from corporate greed and
15 entitlement by denying the permit for the TransCanada
16 Keystone XL pipeline. It is the right thing to do.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 17.

20 MS. SCHOOLEY: My name is Carol Schooley,
21 I'm a retired teacher and a farmer. I live in Grand
22 Island. I moved to Nebraska in 1972 from the

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1 Washington, D.C. area, and I thought I had lost
2 civilization on the way out here. I've since come to
3 truly appreciate the wonder that is Nebraska. It's a
4 place of warm people and beautiful land.

5 I wish to state my opposition to the
6 TransCanada pipeline project. Although I oppose the
7 project because of the environmental issues to the
8 fragile Sand Hills lands and the aquifer, I pose it
9 from another more telling position also:
10 TransCanada's approach to selling themselves.

11 TransCanada has given landowners money for
12 their easements and then threatened those who comply
13 with less money or eminent domain. And what about
14 the group Landowners for Fairness who tried to
15 negotiate a better deal with the company? They were
16 brought together, asked to sign a paper that they
17 would not tell what went on in their meeting, and
18 suddenly the group has sort of disappeared.

19 One person who went to the meeting as an
20 interested citizen was told to leave, as he was not a
21 member of the group. This kind of secrecy causes
22 distressed and fractured friendships, making it

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1 easier for the company to further exploit other
2 landowners.

3 Is TransCanada going to give Burwell the
4 rest of the fencing for their yearly rodeo? They
5 bought a bunch of it for the city this year, what
6 will they give next year after Burwell has been
7 subdued with their largesse this year?

8 As the company throws dollars at
9 communities, they also pledged more than \$1.1 million
10 to support FFA. Why would a pipeline company support
11 career development initiatives for agriculture? Are
12 we really to believe that passage of the tar sands
13 oils through our sacred aquifer will bring us
14 benefits by making oil more available to Nebraskans?
15 Are the multinational and national companies who own
16 the tar sands going to let the U.S. have a share just
17 because we carry the oil through our lands and
18 waters?

19 I believe we will have paid a price for
20 that, with the destruction of our fragile Sand Hills
21 and the possible ruination of our rivers.

22 TransCanada spent \$790,000 on federal

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1 lobbying just the first half of 2011. The company
2 has spent \$720,000 on lobbying, all of last year and
3 \$80,000 back in 2007 before it applied for the
4 Keystone XL permit. If they're such a good thing for
5 the U.S., why do they have to do so much lobbying at
6 the federal level?

7 On the subject of jobs, and welcome to
8 Nebraska to all of the union folks, but I ask, why
9 are you here? Are the jobs for Nebraska or for
10 others?

11 (Applause)

12 Are we really ready to ruin the land and
13 water of Nebraska for the few jobs that have not been
14 specified and will probably be temporary as well as
15 imported? Are we ready to throw away our heritage
16 for tax dollars that expire in 15 years? And how
17 much will this reduce farmers' taxes, especially
18 their land taxes. How much will that money mean to
19 our children?

20 With the money the company has spent to
21 convince Nebraskans through TV ads and gifts, and
22 even invasion of beloved football team's stadium,

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1 couldn't they must move the pipeline near the one
2 they already have and keep the mess over there?

3 (Applause)

4 So that it doesn't threaten the aquifer.

5 And again, in terms of jobs, it would make a little
6 bit more work for these folks. The tactics mentioned
7 above I believe are underhanded and wrong, and I
8 believe that the promises of TransCanada are empty
9 and their attitude is one of superiority. Their
10 purpose is to make money.

11 A company that has to lie and lie its way
12 into a business situation is probably not going to
13 keep its promises and will not be such a sugar daddy
14 when it finally gets what it wants. Because of all
15 the above reasons, I oppose the TransCanada pipeline
16 and urge you to, also. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 18.

20 MR. JORDAN: My name is Harry A. Jordan.

21 I'm married to Linda Lucille Hutchinson Jordan, whose
22 family farm she inherited several years ago. This

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1 family farm document and title that we have is signed
2 by General Grant.

3 I've visited and been on the family farm
4 for over 45 years. I visited out there and we
5 managed it while we both taught; I taught at Craig
6 Prep for 35 years. My wife was one of the last rural
7 school country teachers in the countryside. She
8 retired twice, and now we finally find ourselves
9 retired in the City of Albion, Nebraska. Our farm is
10 in Boone County, it's approximately nine miles north
11 northwest of the town itself where our original
12 homestead is, and very few miles from where the
13 pipeline is scheduled to go through the Sand Hills.

14 I've hunted out in the Sand Hill area for
15 45 years with ranchers whom we sell our crops to; our
16 grain, our wheat. And I'm also a graduate of
17 Cranbrook Academy as an architect and also the
18 Maryland Institute. I've studied engineering and was
19 an engineer in Detroit when the bottom fell out; best
20 paying job I had. I was a union member.

21 AUDIENCE: A union job?

22 MR. JORDAN: Yes, sir.

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. JORDAN: And I can empathize with the
3 Union Members that are here, and I'm going through a
4 very emotional experience right now. A gentlemen
5 earlier said don't get emotional. Well, when I see
6 the union people here and I see my background, it's
7 really a strange feeling, because I find myself torn
8 on two sides of the fence here, but I'm not going to
9 cross over it.

10 I'm against, my family's against the pipe
11 -- and let me explain. My family is against the
12 pipeline because of unique information that we have,
13 personal experience. I've been through the Sand
14 Hills, and I would like to underwrite Senator Haar's
15 comments, also, particularly as an engineer.

16 The sand dunes move. This is an area
17 that's 25,000 to 3 or 4 million years old. One of
18 the remnants of this is the Missouri River. You have
19 a depth from right on the surface all the way down to
20 1,000 foot deep in this particular aquifer. The
21 remnants of this is the Sand Hills. If you drive up
22 from Omaha, Nebraska, Council Bluffs have sand dunes,

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1 and then you look on the lee side of that and you see
2 the dunes over there where all the Indian
3 reservations are -- are the remnants of this great
4 inland seat that's now deposited underground.

5 There are areas out there in the Sand
6 Hills where you'll get a blowout on the lee side of
7 the apothem angle of a dune, and you'll see water on
8 the surface which may or may not freeze in the
9 wintertime depending upon where it's percolating up
10 from, if it's very, very deep water.

11 If you have a break in a pipe here,
12 particularly sandy, loamy soil -- I don't know if
13 anybody's ever picked up a bucket of sand, but it's
14 about 26 pounds of just pure sand. Now add tar to
15 that, and you drop that on top of water, when you
16 have a freeze out here it's going to down. It's
17 going to go down through that water and it's going to
18 settle into the aquifer. Then it's going to flow
19 downhill, clear to Texas. Even though the deepest
20 spot is here.

21 So you have, in my opinion -- and also I
22 should say I also spent time in the Navy on three

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1 United States ships. I personally met Harry S
2 Truman; I served in Operations Intelligence and I've
3 dealt with Homeland Security most of my life, even
4 after I recommended students to West Point and the
5 Naval Academy and other services; they've all come
6 back to me after they become officers, and I hear
7 stories, because I shared many that I had privy to.
8 I also reported sometime to Senator Kerry when he
9 chaired the House Intelligence Committee, yes, ma'am.

10 And I'm now a volunteer Rear Admiral like
11 147 other former servicemen from Vietnam, the Cuban
12 blockade --

13 (Applause)

14 And when I was approached by the Secret Service
15 regarding students that I had referred to, I was
16 stunned that any -- and I'm also a Carolina boy, I
17 was born on North Carolina, on a farm -- and my
18 family out there lost their farm during the
19 Depression. But I do know one thing, and from my
20 standpoint not to differ with a fellow military
21 colleague, the Colonel over here, but she does not
22 know me. I'd also been part of the black program

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1 working for NASA, and built models for the Mars
2 project research, and you can contact Senator Kerry's
3 office and check all this out if you'd like.

4 But if anyone types up my name, that's
5 Harry Jordan, Harry A. Jordan -- there are four of
6 us, I'm not trying to puff myself up here -- four of
7 us in Omaha, I'm Harry A. Jordan.

8 And during that time when I was a union
9 worker, I learned a lot of things about politics.
10 And you see American people being pitted against one
11 another. But I would request that this distinguished
12 State Department staff inform Secretary Clinton to
13 advise the president to formulate the presidential
14 finding critical to the preservation of an invaluable
15 natural resource; and that is the largest aquifer in
16 the world, fresh water aquifer in the world. And
17 that is in Nebraska.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 19.

21 MR. DEFFENBACHER: My name is Ken

22 Deffenbacher. I'm a retired scientist and teacher.

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1 I've also been a union president, twice over. I've
2 been a resident of Nebraska for 43 years.

3 The proposed XL tar sands pipeline is not
4 in our national interest, and especially not in the
5 State of Nebraska's interest, given its currently-
6 proposed route through our Sand Hills. The principal
7 reason it's not in our national interest is the
8 threat of irreparable damage posed by a significant
9 spill of XL tar sands oil in the Ogallala Aquifer and
10 onto overlying native grass ground cover.

11 The State Department's Final Environmental
12 Impact Statement still lacks a proper analysis of the
13 safety impacts of a raw tar sands oil pipeline routed
14 through the Sand Hills, including the likelihood of
15 spills and difficulties of cleanup. I'll give
16 several examples.

17 In the first year of operation of Keystone
18 I, in both the U.S. and Canada there have been 30
19 spills, or more. TransCanada's new natural gas
20 pipeline exploded in a Northwest section of Wyoming
21 earlier this summer, after less than six months of
22 operation. They had said it was the safest ever,

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1 because the best technology had been used.

2 TransCanada's Canadian competitor,
3 Enbridge company, had a pipeline transporting tar
4 sands crude oil, burst in July of 2010 and spilled
5 880,000 gallons into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

6 The EPA gave Enbridge two months to clean it up.
7 More than a year later, much of the oil along a 40
8 mile strip of river hasn't been cleaned up because
9 the tar sands crude is sticking to rocks and sand at
10 the bottom of rivers, lakes and wetlands. EPA
11 scientists don't now when it will be cleaned up, if
12 ever. No one seems to know how to do so.

13 The Sand Hills aquifer can be very mobile,
14 especially in Holt County, in Northern Nebraska.
15 Outcropping into ponds, wetlands and springs, they
16 create lakes and rivers. Much of the Platte River
17 east of Columbus is fed by ground water of Sand Hills
18 origin.

19 Of course Lincoln and Omaha depend on
20 water wells along the Platte to a considerable
21 extent. Thus, contamination of a particular mobile
22 portion of the Sand Hills aquifer could result in a

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1 threat to the water supply for many Nebraskans.

2 The State Department environmental
3 consulting firm confidently concluded that the grass
4 cover of the Sand Hills can be reclaimed after
5 skimming it off for construction. If this firm,
6 having had TransCanada as one of its major clients,
7 had thoroughly researched the problem, they would
8 know that reclaiming grass cover in the Sand Hills is
9 a very iffy proposition, even their four year time
10 window. I had a noted prairie ecologist the other
11 day say "Good luck with the four year time window."

12 Thus, wherever reclamation is
13 unsuccessful, highly likely with warmer than normal
14 dry springs or summers, there will be an
15 environmental scar and the possibility of a blowout
16 of the exposed sandy soil. Such blowouts would not
17 do much for pipeline stability, and likely result in
18 a frequent shutdown of the pipeline, whether it would
19 spring a leak or not.

20 In conclusion, if I were a TransCanada
21 shareholder, I would have some serious concerns about
22 the Sand Hills. I would be in favor of them at the

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1 Nebraska border, with the proposed existing route,
2 taking a sharp jog to the east and extending down the
3 existing route of the Keystone I pipeline. Thank
4 you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 Speaker No. 20.

8 MS. DEFFENBACHER: My name is Helen
9 Deffenbacher, and I'm a grandmother and an
10 environmental activist. I've lived in Nebraska 43
11 years.

12 Like our vocal heroes here today who
13 continue to fight the good fight against tar sands
14 oil, the First Nations people of British Columbia are
15 also inspiring. They're standing up to TransCanada's
16 sister corporation, Enbridge. They have refused
17 Enbridge's offer of \$1 billion to build the proposed
18 Northern Gateway Pipeline across their land.

19 The First Nations people know they can't
20 drink oil or grow crops on contaminated soil any more
21 than we can. They also know that \$1 billion would
22 not even begin to cover what they've been asked to

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1 risk. "Enbridge's money is no good to us," they have
2 said.

3 Passing down the livable earth to coming
4 generations is the kind of legacy that means the most
5 to them. It's also the kind that is most meaningful
6 to many others here today. TransCanada's money would
7 be no good to us, either, without clean water to
8 drink and to grow our crops.

9 (Applause)

10 Our government is of, by and for the
11 people; not of, by and for corporations, as many have
12 believed it has become --

13 (Applause)

14 We must stand for all of the people, not
15 just for the wealthy only or the arrogant only. It
16 is arrogant of TransCanada to refuse to change the
17 pipeline route merely because it would be less
18 expensive than alternative routes; and it is arrogant
19 for them to dismiss the value of the Ogallala Aquifer
20 to our nation when calculating what they would save.
21 What price can they or anyone else put on an aquifer?

22 It is arrogant for them to claim the

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1 pipeline is in our national interest when we know
2 U.S. demand for oil is dropping. It is arrogant of
3 TransCanada to inflate the number of jobs to people
4 who need the work. Most of the jobs are temporary,
5 and they are 13 times the U.S. Department of State
6 estimates.

7 The proposed pipeline, however, would be
8 permanent. In its first year of operation, Keystone
9 I has already leaked over 30 times in the U.S. and
10 Canada, and so it appears it would be a matter of if,
11 not when Keystone XL would begin to leak.

12 The EPA recently reported that it would
13 take many years to complete the cleanup of the
14 Kalamazoo River Watershed primarily because tar sands
15 oil is heavier than water and contains toxic metals.

16 An aquifer is not a river, and no one has ever
17 cleaned one up before or tried to restore an aquifer
18 following a mega-spill.

19 What our state and our nation desperately
20 need are leaders with foresight, wisdom and courage
21 of the First Nations people of British Columbia,
22 leaders who believe that our water and land are more

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1 valuable than oil, or any amount of money and our
2 people worth protecting.

3 I respectfully ask you, Secretary Clinton,
4 to be that kind of leader and to move our nation
5 forward, not backward.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 We now have Speaker No. 21.

10 MISS WILSON: My name is Della Wilson, and
11 I am a 12 year old eighth grader from Logan
12 Fontenelle Middle School in Bellevue, Nebraska.

13 (Applause)

14 I am a second generation native of
15 Nebraska. This past April, I had the privilege of
16 winning first place in energy science in the Nebraska
17 Science Olympiad State Championship, and that's why I
18 came here today.

19 (Applause)

20 I've been studying the ways to protect our
21 earth's waterways. I am here today to ask for your
22 support in protecting the Ogallala Aquifer I realize

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1 that the issue of the pipeline and the aquifer is
2 complicated. I know that our nation thrives off oil
3 and jobs, and that the promise of both from the
4 people is one that is hard to pass up. But XL has a
5 pass history of leakage.

6 Even one leak in our shell aquifer can
7 ruin this natural water resource that provides water
8 to millions of people in eight states. I studied the
9 cost of restoration, and it's a lot. And sometimes
10 the aquifer can't be cleaned up at all.

11 Many of you have political reasons for
12 being here. You belong to a side; an
13 environmentalist, a pro-oil person, a Democrat, a
14 Republican and so on. At 12 years old, I don't
15 belong to a clique or a party, but I believe this is
16 wrong.

17 This aquifer was placed here millions of
18 years ago for our use and we have an obligation to be
19 good stewards of it. Trading clean water and jobs
20 may seem like a good idea to you, and many of you are
21 at an age where you won't be around to feel the
22 effects of this decision -- but your decision will

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1 affect me and my children and my grandchildren.

2 Why will we compromise our natural water
3 and not find other methods to produce oil? And we
4 may not even benefit from this oil this pipeline will
5 produce anyways. Why are we doing this? I came here
6 today because I know it will cause a negative problem if
7 it's done, even to our nation's economy.

8 According to the Water Earth Project, over
9 one billion people on this earth struggle to find
10 clean, safe water. Oil and jobs are important, but
11 they are not required to sustain life. Clean water
12 is. Don't sacrifice it and cause me and my
13 generation to have to bear the consequences in the
14 future and join the billions of others who are
15 struggling to find safe water.

16 President Obama, please vote no for the
17 pipeline and yes for clean water for Nebraska and our
18 neighboring states. Please, save your children and
19 grandchildren because they will remember your choice.
20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: We'll next have Speaker No.

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1 22.

2 MS. RICHTER: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Ruth Richter. I'm 50 years old and except for 15
4 years of living in California, I've grown up in
5 Bellevue, Nebraska. And I moved back here in 2005
6 with my husband and my two boys to raise my
7 children's great state.

8 Two years ago our city council elected to
9 start a Green Committee, and I am founding member of
10 what is now a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization called
11 Green Bellevue. We promote protection of the
12 environment through education.

13 Even though this issue of the construction
14 and path of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline in
15 Nebraska does not directly go through Bellevue, the
16 members of Green Bellevue and our Board of Directors
17 do believe that the project poses great risks to the
18 environment and economy in Nebraska and in America,
19 and that affects all of us.

20 We believe that in order to protect the
21 over \$17.2 billion in agricultural industry in
22 Nebraska, clean water resources need to be protected.

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1 We feel that the environmental impact statement that
2 has given the green light environmentally to the
3 pipeline project can be compared to allowing your
4 child to swim in shark-infested waters because the
5 statistics of getting attacked by a shark are less
6 then getting struck by lightning.

7 Per John Stansbury, Associate Professor
8 and Associate Chair of Environmental Water Resources
9 Engineering at UNL, the number of leaks and the
10 amount of the leaks would be greater than estimated
11 by TransCanada; and the drinking water of the entire
12 state could be at risk from this pipeline. It is not
13 a matter of if it will leak, but when it will leak.
14 And there are 12 known leaks on the existing
15 pipeline.

16 This pipeline project has the potential to
17 benefit Nebraska in the short term by providing
18 dollars to businesses and jobs to our people; and
19 also some will benefit by receiving some tax moneys
20 and other types of payments. However, pipeline leaks
21 of tar sands oil and whatever known chemicals could
22 result in contamination of water for irrigation,

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1 livestock and drinking, and could also lead to the
2 loss of a great number of agricultural sector jobs in
3 the long term.

4 Above all, it is impossible to put a price
5 on what could be lost from drinking poisoned water
6 and on the enduring health risks that a spill would
7 pose. It should not be argued that this pipeline
8 would contribute to our energy security. This is
9 because, once these tar sands are refined, there is
10 no guarantee that the final product will be purchased
11 for use by Americans.

12 (Applause)

13 And allowing TransCanada to put the
14 pipeline through the United States doesn't
15 necessarily mean bettering our relationship with
16 Canada or enabling us to cut ties with the Middle
17 East.

18 The efforts to increase job creation would
19 better be spent on developing alternative energies in
20 Nebraska.

21 (Applause)

22 These cleaner technologies would not put

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1 human lives and livelihoods at risk, and would pose a
2 much smaller risk to the environment. Therefore,
3 Green Bellevue believes the Presidential Permit for
4 this additional TransCanada pipeline should not be
5 approved.

6 TransCanada is using their best guess when
7 it comes to safety of the pipeline material.
8 Effectiveness of methods to clean up potential spills
9 and restore clean water, as well as the proposed
10 monitoring equipment.

11 It is not a matter of if it will leak but
12 when it will leak, and there are 12 known leaks on
13 the existing pipeline.

14 The economic gain potential is simply not
15 large enough for the risks we are being asked to
16 take; and therefore, on behalf of the members of
17 Green Bellevue, we are asking President Obama to
18 decline the permit to build this pipeline.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 23.

21 MR. PRYMET: Thank you for allowing us to
22 speak today. My name is Dan Prymet, and we speak in

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1 favor of the pipeline. I work for Laborers-Employers
2 Cooperation Education Trust, LECET for short. We are
3 a labor-management cooperation committee. We cover
4 the States of Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa.

5 We are labor and management working
6 together to fight for projects that will put our
7 members to work, and making a living wage. This
8 pipeline will put thousands of our members to work,
9 many of them who have been unemployed and without
10 work for a long time.

11 Our members and contractors working
12 together have made a commitment to providing the best
13 trained and safest workforce for this project through
14 state-of-the-art, first class training facilities.
15 We are here today to fight for good jobs that will
16 put our members and our contractors back to work, and
17 this project will do that. Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 24.

21 MR. PICKARD: Thank you for allowing me to
22 speak today. My name is Lynn Pickard, I'm the

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1 training director for the Iowa Labor, Education and
2 Training Fund. We help provide the training for our
3 members across Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa. We
4 also helped set up the state-of-the-art training
5 center in Omaha, Nebraska, and we've trained hundreds
6 of our members using our nationally recognized
7 pipeline safety curriculum.

8 The pipeline course teaches our
9 participants the safety procedures and work practices
10 required to work on the pipeline construction
11 projects. All the phases of pipeline construction
12 are addressed, including the front end, the pipe
13 handling, the pipe coding, and the back end of the
14 work, to its original condition.

15 I urge the State Department to approve the
16 permit. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 25.

20 MS. LAWSON: Thank you. My name is Pippa
21 White Lawson, and I'm a concerned Nebraskan. In
22 January of this year, I attended a meeting about the

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1 XL pipeline. There was a gentleman there from South
2 Dakota who said TransCanada told South Dakotans that
3 there would be 11,000 jobs for them on the first
4 pipeline. They got 200.

5 When Nebraskans are promised thousands of
6 jobs, I fear it may be a repeat of what happened in
7 South Dakota. But in today's economy, even a few
8 jobs count. However, if there is a leak in the XL
9 pipeline, the jobs of hundreds of Nebraskans in
10 agriculture are threatened. So though I understand
11 that many people need jobs, they may get jobs that
12 ultimately ruin the livelihood permanently of
13 ranchers and farmers here. How is this in the
14 national interest?

15 (Applause)

16 Unless there is a new national interest
17 that doesn't include the people who provide us with
18 food.

19 (Applause)

20 With regard to the possibility of a leak,
21 the State Department has said in its Final
22 Environmental Impact Statement that the XL pipeline

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1 would have a degree of safety greater than any
2 typically-constructed domestic oil pipeline system
3 under current regulations. This sounds very
4 reassuring, but if TransCanada had that technology,
5 why didn't they use it on the first pipeline?

6 (Applause)

7 They cannot have wanted the embarrassment
8 of those 12 to 14 leaks in 12 months. If they have
9 that technology, it is not tried and true, it is new.
10 So this degree of safety is all conjecture; it's
11 hopeful conjecture. It should be safe, but wouldn't
12 you have said that about the first pipeline? I feel
13 that Nebraskans' intelligence is insulted when we get
14 assurances that are based on nothing but hope and
15 should -- 'it should be safe.'

16 (Applause)

17 There is no precedent. This is new
18 technology, and it's not proven or it would have been
19 used on the first pipeline. And these assurances are
20 empty and they're not enough when you're talking
21 about the risk of an oil spill in a water supply of
22 millions of people, crops and livestock. We

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1 Nebraskans deserve better from our State Department
2 than those assurances.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker No. 26.

6 MR. WALTON: Thank you for having us this
7 morning; my name is Rex Walton, I'm from Lincoln,
8 Nebraska.

9 I suppose most of us, if we had been here
10 for the first hour or so and listened to the first
11 ten or twelve speakers, we would think that perhaps
12 overwhelmingly that Nebraska was in favor of this XL
13 pipeline.

14 Ken Haar was allowed to speak; I
15 appreciate that. But most of the first ten speakers
16 evidently were given free passes to speak first.

17 (Applause)

18 They were not in line. I was in line for
19 an hour and a half, and some of those people I did
20 not see in front of me.

21 (Applause)

22 We have a fellow here in the State, his

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1 name is Joe Sterito; he wrote a book called "I Am A
2 Man" about Chief Standing Bear, and the trial of
3 Standing Bear. What does that have to do with us?
4 It was a trial that brought a confluence of events
5 together that for that for the first time declared
6 the American Indian as a person in the eyes of the
7 court, so that they could petition the court in a
8 matter of legal precedent.

9 That may sound superfluous here, but what
10 we're talking about is making sure that all of us
11 have an equal standing, whether we're union members
12 here waiting in line to speak, or whether we're
13 people that are union members such as myself, and
14 still opposed to the pipeline. That's something that
15 we need to keep important.

16 (Applause)

17 All of us need an equal standing under the
18 law and under the eyes of this procedure. The
19 pipeline project is important to Nebraska for many
20 reasons. Some of these reasons are frightening to
21 me. What happens with that oil? Who owns that oil?
22 We see the pipeline being debated. The oil project

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1 is invested in by many companies and many nations.

2 That oil will be owned by many nations, China among

3 them.

4 What happens when we decide, in the United

5 States or Canada decides as a government that that

6 oil needs to stay here. Will it still flow or will

7 it stay here, where we supposedly need it for our

8 national security. These are very important

9 questions, and I submit that we need to stop, hold

10 back, move the pipeline; let's take a little time

11 here and look at the procedure, see what we need to

12 do. Think about the average person out here that

13 wants a job, that wants a life, that wants pure and

14 clean water. Let's keep these things in mind.

15 Thank you for your time.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Before I call the next number I understand

19 we have another elected official here, Senator

20 Fulton.

21 If you can some and speak.

22 SEN FULTON: Thank you. My name is Tony

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1 Fulton, I represent District 29 in the Nebraska
2 Legislature. Well, welcome to Nebraska. I've been
3 on the other end of these hearings, and I can
4 understand that sometimes it's hard to pay attention
5 for long periods of time; but I simply ask you to pay
6 heed to the people of Nebraska, for in them I believe
7 resides a great deal of wisdom, and pay heed to the
8 land of Nebraska, particularly the Sand Hills, for
9 there is no other place on earth like it.

10 (Applause)

11 The position I'm espousing here, I'd like
12 the route of this pipeline to be moved, and to that
13 end I would like to see the permit denied.

14 (Applause)

15 Now, there have been good reasons given in
16 favor of this pipeline, and I have to say that if I
17 were asked whether I'm in favor of this pipeline, I
18 would say that I am. There will be jobs, and
19 certainly I understand the people who are dressed in
20 orange are here for the jobs. And in these trying
21 economic times, brother, I hear you.

22 They want jobs for their families, and we

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1 want jobs for Nebraskans. And to that end, I'm
2 thankful for this pipeline.

3 We'd like to see our energy sources come
4 from friends rather than from enemies, and certainly
5 Canada is a friend. I recognize that and I support
6 it, and therefore I'm grateful for this pipeline.

7 There's also this reality I've not heard
8 mentioned yet, and that is revenues that will come to
9 our great state. Canadian dollars paying Nebraska
10 taxes? I'm all in favor of that. I'm thankful,
11 therefore, for this pipeline. I simply have concern
12 with this route; and the way that state and federal
13 governments interact, here's an opportunity and I
14 feel an obligation and responsibility, to ask you to
15 deny this permit.

16 There's something that's important to
17 point out, and that is that TransCanada has a
18 position; they are the prime mover of this project.
19 This is not to impugn their engineers or scientists,
20 but what I am going to say is that they are going to
21 advocate for this route. They're going to say that
22 it is safe, that it's been engineered. And again,

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1 they may well believe that, but recognize that there
2 are different positions in this debate, and that it
3 is the responsibility of elected officials and public
4 officials, indeed, to ferret out that which is true
5 from which is not true, and to recognize the good
6 intentions and what the people want.

7 Now I first took note of this issue when I
8 read in our local newspaper that TransCanada was
9 proposing to operate this pipeline at a higher
10 pressure while simultaneously building the pipe with
11 thinner -- with less pipe, with thinner wall
12 thickness. My own background personally is in the
13 engineering profession, indeed in the energy sector,
14 working with oil and gas companies. And this put off
15 a red flag in my mind, this was about a year ago, and
16 I think I was like a number of Nebraskans, content to
17 allow this to play out.

18 I figured, if you're going to operate at a
19 higher pressure with low or minimal thickness in your
20 pipe, someone's going to raise a red flag. Indeed,
21 no one did. And so I fired off a letter to Secretary
22 Clinton and I asked to speak with TransCanada's

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1 engineers; and to their credit, they allowed me that
2 opportunity,.

3 Now they never did go forward with that
4 proposal. Here is an example of science and sound
5 engineering recognizing and yielding to prudence, as
6 a show of deference and respect to the alarm and
7 concern of the people. I'm certain that there was
8 good, sound engineering reason to propose higher
9 pressures with thinner pipe. Indeed, the engineers I
10 spoke to indicated that this would be fine. Yet that
11 proposal was abandoned, I presume out of deference
12 and respect to the concern of the people.

13 President Obama, Secretary Clinton, please
14 hear the sincere and genuine concern of an entire
15 people. The place between extremes, that elusive
16 middle ground in politics. The path of prudence does
17 not pass through the Nebraska Sand Hills.

18 (Applause)

19 Out of respect for time and respect of the
20 time of others, I simply ask that this permit be
21 denied such that the route of this pipeline may be
22 reconsidered. Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 Speaker No. 27.

4 MS. ADAMS: That's a hard speech to
5 follow.

6 My name is Fern Adams, and I am here to --
7 I'm from Lincoln, Nebraska, and I'm here to
8 represent the senior citizens that I know and are
9 certainly against this pipeline running through our
10 aquifer into our Sand Hills.

11 Years ago I worked for the groundwater
12 branch of the U.S. Geological Survey, and it was at
13 that time I learned the value of the Ogallala Aquifer
14 in the State of Nebraska. I could speak many reasons
15 why this pipeline should not be built; some of them
16 have already been addressed. But instead, after
17 reading our morning paper, it appears all our union
18 workers, most of the people all want clean water,
19 clean air, and jobs. We all so.

20 In Nebraska we cannot feel safe to choose
21 all three of these as equal. We must at least beg,
22 if we have to, to have the pipeline rerouted around

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1 our Sand Hills and Ogallala Aquifer. We cannot be
2 forced into a position that could possibly destroy
3 our irrigation and water supplies in our State.
4 Also, we might lose the ability to produce crops for
5 the nation and the world.

6 In our State we can't settle for a promise
7 of a few dollars in the pocket today. President
8 Obama, please save our State for us.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 28.

12 MS. MILLER: My name is Cheryl Miller, and
13 I'm from Merrick County, or Central City area of
14 Nebraska. The last two speakers have made my speech
15 feel a little more difficult, in my mind. I am
16 standing here in support of the pipeline. I am from
17 Nebraska, from Kimball, Nebraska originally; and that
18 has given me part of my feeling in supporting this,
19 because I grew up during the time when the 12-year
20 old spoke -- I was 12 years old when the missile
21 silos came to Western Nebraska. And the scare was
22 just like this -- "Oaah! We're going to blow up."

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1 We're going to lose the western end of the state!"

2 So I kind of see some of the fear thing
3 going on here. But I have great respect for Senator
4 Tony Fulton and his comments regarding the
5 engineering part of the aquifer and the pipeline gave
6 me a little bit of concern, more concern than I had.

7 But I do support the pipeline being here.
8 I live in Merrick County, right where it will be. I
9 am concerned about our water, I am concerned about
10 the big aquifer under our State, but I would like to
11 see it be safe.

12 I read Senator Christensen of Imperial,
13 sent a letter, had 57 additional safety requirements
14 placed on TransCanada. His response was: All those
15 57 demands were met to his satisfaction on the
16 pipeline. That made me support it.

17 So you have a very difficult decision, I
18 know, to make on this issue, because I'm waffling. I
19 do support it, I think it would be very good for our
20 State, very good for my County, and I wish you well
21 in your decision, as I waffle. If that makes any
22 sense. Thank you.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 29.

4 MR. SCHROPFER: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Len Schropfer, I'm a farmer in Filmore County, and
6 we do thank you for this hearing.

7 Shame on TransCanada, threatening and
8 silencing landowners, preventing them from answering
9 questions from state senators. Buying off officials
10 and the media, using grossly exaggerated jobs claims.
11 TransCanada Pipeline's operations director, Jim
12 Kraus, has said to our legislature that the XL
13 pipeline could be used to mine or transport water.

14 Since water will become more valuable than
15 petroleum, that would help explain TransCanada's
16 insistence on routing through the headwaters of the
17 Ogallala Aquifer.

18 (Applause)

19 Secretary Clinton has said that the
20 importance of groundwater to our State is only one of
21 her many national interest concerns, which include
22 economic and energy security. The net beneficiary of

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1 this population would be China, since they control a
2 lot of refinery capacity and the Panama Canal.

3 Therefore, it is certainly not in our
4 national interest. It would not lower our gas prices
5 but raise them, by bypassing Midwest refineries.

6 (Applause)

7 We should instead get more petroleum from
8 our good neighbor Mexico, much closer, and from safe
9 wells in the Gulf of Mexico, and for productive
10 capped wells in Texas and other states.

11 Please deny this permit. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 30.

15 MR. BLASINGAME: I'm John Blasingame, I'm
16 a retired member of Local 1140 in Omaha, Nebraska,
17 Laborers International Union of North America.

18 Listening to some of the speakers before
19 me, you know, I own a good mule, and I like riding my
20 mule. Maybe I ought to get rid of my car and just
21 stick to the mule. She pollutes a little bit, but I
22 can live with it.

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1 (Laughter, applause)

2 Maybe we ought to all get rid of our cars and just
3 get mules.

4 Well, we're not going that way. Like it
5 or not, we are wed to fossil fuels, and I dare say
6 that at least 99 percent of us at this meeting today
7 got here through the use of fossil fuels. They are a
8 fact.

9 (Applause)

10 Cars don't run on sunshine; it's too bad,
11 but that's a fact, too. What we need, in my union,
12 are jobs, desperately. And you can't believe how
13 desperately. And this pipe, this pipeline, will be
14 built paying a living wage, not a minimum wage. It
15 will help people pay rent, make house payments; it
16 will give their whole families, the workers and their
17 families, good health insurance. Our workers will
18 pay into a good union pension plan; that's a defined
19 benefit plan, not a 401(k). Most American workers
20 used to be covered by this kind of plan, not anymore.
21 But we still are, and it works; it's really good.

22 It will create demand for services. We

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1 hear that giving tax breaks to corporate America
2 makes for -- that will create jobs. No. It's
3 demand, it's money in working people's pockets that
4 create demand for goods and services that makes the
5 economy go. And on top of that, we're going to be
6 paying a lot of taxes into our local, state and
7 federal treasuries out of those wages we'll be
8 earning. It's good for us, very much.

9 I think it's impossible to get fossil
10 fuels into the tanks of our automobiles without some
11 kind of accidents. If you don't like the pipeline,
12 then I assume that you're willing to take tragedies
13 like the Exxon Valdez, that that's acceptable. Or
14 the blowout in the Gulf of Mexico is acceptable --
15 because these things are going to happen; the oil is
16 going to get to this country some way, and there are
17 going to be accidents, and you can't prevent them
18 all.

19 This is a good idea, I think, for this
20 pipeline to come this way because Canada is a good
21 neighbor, and if we don't buy the oil, that doesn't
22 mean that Alberta is not going to exploit those tar

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1 sands; they definitely will. So you're not keeping,
2 you're not helping any kind of environmental
3 condition in Canada by not taking their oil.

4 We need these jobs badly, and I hope we
5 can get this pipeline built. Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 And if, after Speaker 31, if we can take
9 just a very, very short break for our reporter, I'd
10 greatly appreciate it.

11 Speaker No. 31.

12 MR. MILLER: My name is Marty Miller, and
13 I'm a landowner very near the proposed pipeline. I
14 live near Central City. We really need the jobs out
15 there. We need the business that the pipeline would
16 bring, there'd be a pumping station there, and heaven
17 knows we certainly could use the oil that isn't
18 coming from the Far East.

19 So I'm for the proposed pipeline. Thank
20 you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. And again,

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1 we'll just take a very short, five minute break.

2 (Recess.)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: You can start from the
4 beginning.

5 DR. MCKINNEY: My name is Dr. Amanda
6 McKinney, and I'm a physician from Beatrice,
7 Nebraska.

8 I stand before you today not only as a
9 physician but as a mother and a concerned citizen.
10 In October 2009, I literally stood on stage behind
11 President Obama in support of health care reform.
12 Today I say that if this administration cares about
13 the health of its people, then it must stop this
14 pipeline.

15 (Applause)

16 These are the things we know: We cannot
17 afford a spill of this toxic tar sands oil into our
18 soil or our drinking water. The production of this
19 oil requires one billion cubic feet of natural gas
20 per day, and so carbon dioxide emissions from tar
21 sands are 20 percent higher than from other oil
22 sources. This only worsens our climate change

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1 issues.

2 According to TransCanada's own permit
3 application, this oil will remove the oversupply of
4 Canadian crude, thereby increasing the price of heavy
5 crude to the equivalent cost of imported crude. This
6 will not lower our gas prices. This is an export
7 pipeline with oil destined for Europe and Latin
8 America.

9 (Applause)

10 According to TransCanada's own data, only
11 11 percent of construction jobs of the Keystone I
12 pipeline in South Dakota went to South Dakota
13 natives. And TransCanada's 2008 permit application
14 only estimated a peak workforce of 3500 to 4200
15 construction personnel to build the pipeline. These
16 jobs are temporary and they will make little impact
17 on our job crisis.

18 (Applause)

19 The Amalgamated Transit Union and the
20 Transport Workers Union are on record as being in
21 agreement with this. I am wholeheartedly for union
22 workers and union jobs, but their skills would be

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1 better utilized building wind turbines and solar
2 panels.

3 (Applause)

4 This is an abbreviated list of the
5 negatives, and the positives of building this
6 pipeline are nearly nonexistent. It serves only to
7 line the pockets of TransCanada.

8 I leave you today with a Cree Indian
9 prophecy: Only when the last tree has been cut down,
10 only when the last river has been poisoned, only when
11 the last fish has been caught, only then will you
12 find that money cannot be eaten.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 33.

16 MS. WATTERS: Hi, my name is Cindy
17 Watters, and I'm just a Lincolonite and I've lived
18 here all my life. And it's not if it's going to
19 leak, it's when. There is not enough money in the
20 world to repair the adverse health, economic or
21 environmental cost. This would not only affect us
22 but the world.

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1 Please save America's aquifer. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 34.

5 MR. PILGREEN: Hello, my name is Wade

6 Pilgreen. I am a 31-year member of Pipeliners Local
7 Union 798. But first of all, I am an American. I
8 have worked on several pipeline projects across this
9 country. I have seen this industry grow by leaps and
10 bounds in the safety and environmental areas.

11 I also share the concerns of everyone in
12 this room and across the country about the safety and
13 environmental issues of the Keystone XL pipeline.

14 But I do feel TransCanada will do everything possible,
15 such as use the most qualified personnel such as the
16 welders, laborers, and operators represented in this
17 room. And also, they will use the most advanced
18 materials in the construction of this pipeline. I
19 know without a doubt it is in their best interest to
20 build and maintain this pipeline with state-of-the-
21 art technology and to treat the public as well as
22 landowners with respect and dignity.

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1 I would like to take a moment and express
2 my feelings on why we need this pipeline so
3 desperately. The number one reason is to stop buying
4 oil from nations that do not have the best interests
5 of Americans at heart; and to stop the transfer of
6 wealth to the OPEC countries. This will create
7 several thousand jobs, real jobs for the American
8 workers.

9 While I do believe we need all the
10 alternative energy sources that the environmentalists
11 are saying we need, but at this time we're not far
12 enough along in these resources to provide this
13 nation those alternatives only. We still depend on
14 oil.

15 I know the Midwest is deeply rooted in
16 farm and families, as I grew up doing just that. We
17 used oil products on a daily if not hourly basis;
18 diesel to run our tractors, oil and grease to lube
19 our equipment, and fuel to drive to get supplies and
20 to heat our home. This pipeline will provide another
21 avenue for the United States to have more of these
22 products. The more the supply, the lower the prices.

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1 I truly believe this pipeline will be a
2 huge impact in getting the U.S. economy back on the
3 right track by creating several thousand jobs.

4 On the safety of oil pipelines in general,
5 there are currently 55,000 miles of crude oil
6 pipelines in America. Saying that, there are very
7 few incidents for that many miles of pipeline in
8 production. Pipelines are the number one safest way
9 to transport products in America.

10 Also, the U.S. State Department has done
11 an extensive study on the impact of this pipeline to
12 the environment, and have found there to be no
13 significant impact to our environment. And I have
14 heard TransCanada say their goal is to build and
15 maintain their pipelines without one single incident.
16 And I am strongly in favor of the Keystone XL
17 pipeline and feel they are committed to doing just
18 that.

19 I appreciate your time on this very
20 important matter.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 Speaker No. 35.

2 MR. BARNETT: Good afternoon. My name is
3 David Barnett and I'm an elected representative of
4 the Pipeliners Local Union 798 of the United
5 Association.

6 I want to take this opportunity to thank
7 you for allowing me to speak today. I would first
8 like to say that I consider myself to be an
9 environmentalist, not an environmental extremist. I
10 truly believe in treating our environment around us
11 with the utmost respect and consideration.

12 I fully support the extensive
13 environmental studies that have been performed for
14 the Keystone XL pipeline project. And further
15 support their findings that this project will have
16 minimal impact to the environment.

17 We are here to weigh out the environmental
18 impact as well as the public need for this project.
19 I've spent my life in the pipeline construction
20 field, and would say that I have as much hands-on
21 experience in constructing pipelines as anyone in
22 this room. The largest project in which I was

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1 personally involved was the construction of the
2 trans-Alaska pipeline project.

3 This project came up against much
4 opposition from the environmental groups of that day.
5 These environmental groups made lots of predictions
6 back then. I recall one such as, "Caribou would not
7 survive around the pipeline." Yet today I see
8 pictures that indicate that it is the grazing area of
9 their choice.

10 Pipelines are the safest and most
11 environmentally-favorable way to transport oil and
12 petroleum products. The trans-Alaska pipeline has
13 safely transported approximately 16 billion barrels
14 of oil to date, with no major disasters and no major
15 impact on wildlife or the tundra.

16 While I'm on that subject, I'd like to set
17 the record straight for some of the fear tactics
18 we've heard today. Of the 12 to 14 or 18 leaks that
19 we heard called on here today of the original
20 Keystone, none of those leaks were in the actual
21 pipeline; they were in the pumping stations. That
22 pipeline has not failed, and my members built a

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1 quality pipeline for TransCanada.

2 (Applause)

3 I have personally consulted with experts
4 on this Ogallala Aquifer. It's another fear that I
5 understand that the local individuals have. With the
6 experts that we have consulted with, I do not believe
7 for a moment that the Ogallala Aquifer, with all the
8 precautions TransCanada has taken, including reducing
9 the pressure less than any other pipeline is being
10 operated in in this country today is in any real
11 danger of contamination by this pipeline.

12 I currently represent 6800 pipeline
13 constructors who are the most highly trained, highly
14 skilled welders, pipefitters, and pipeline helpers in
15 the world. Some of these pipeline workers that I'm
16 speaking of reside right here in this area, and are
17 probably some of your neighbors.

18 The TransCanada Corporation is committed
19 to using the highly skilled work force to construct
20 the Keystone XL pipeline through your state. Why did
21 they choose the highest quality contractors in the
22 world for this project? Not because they were the

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1 cheapest contractors, but because they were the best
2 contractors. The best at doing the right-of-way, the
3 best at developing good relationships with the
4 landowners, and the best contractors available for
5 the end result of minimal impact to the environment.

6 Might I add that by choosing these
7 contractors and this work force, it will also raise
8 the bar for the level of public safety in the area of
9 the pipeline.

10 While we're on the subject of public
11 safety, I feel as many Americans do that we need to
12 purchase as much of our oil as we can from our
13 friendly Canadian allies to the north. As we now
14 know, some of the oil money that has been spent
15 overseas in the past has come back to reign terror on
16 our great country and its citizens.

17 In my opinion, and as I am sure all of you
18 would agree, that too is a matter of public safety.
19 I want to give you a figure right now that is going
20 to astound you: We spend a million dollars a minute
21 on overseas oil. How can we possibly win a war when
22 we're funding both sides of it? And do not kid

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1 yourself, it's over the oil.

2 This project is estimated to create 13,000
3 construction jobs, many of which will go to my
4 members. And 118,000 additional jobs in other
5 related sectors, many of which will be right from
6 this State. This comes at a time when America needs
7 jobs badly, maybe as badly as it has in 75 years.

8 This project will pump over \$10 billion of
9 private equity investment into our country, and it is
10 much needed. The best estimates are that this
11 project will create \$600 million in revenue for
12 communities and states along the pipeline route
13 during construction, which is also much needed.

14 I, too, desire for America to develop more
15 green technology and implement it into our lives.
16 This will not happen overnight; and as I stand here
17 today, America has a large dependency on oil for many
18 uses. We all came here today in some form of
19 transportation, and I would bet that an oil product
20 propelled all of us here.

21 As I have previously stated, the studies
22 have been performed. With the proper planning and

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1 construction, the overwhelming need for this project
2 far outweighs the minimal impact to the environment.
3 I stand in favor of the State Department permit to
4 allow the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline,
5 and let's show the world America can still make a
6 common sense decision!

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 36.

10 MR. MCCOLLEY: My name is Mark McColley,
11 I'm the business manager of Steamfitters and Plumbers
12 Local Union 464 in Omaha, Nebraska. I'd like to
13 thank you for allowing me to address this hearing. I
14 represent over 340,000 members of the United
15 Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler
16 Fitters, along with their families.

17 The UA, as my organization is known by its
18 highly trained craftsmen and women who build
19 everything from homes, schools, and hospitals, to
20 power plants, manufacturing facilities. Our members
21 will be constructing the Keystone XL pipeline. The
22 pipeline is an environmentally safe project that will

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1 go a long way towards increasing our security and
2 energy independence. It will also create tens of
3 thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of
4 badly needed jobs, when unemployment in the
5 construction industry remains at 40 percent.

6 I am confident in saying that the project
7 will be environmentally safe, because I understand
8 the comprehensive and thorough review undertaken by
9 the U.S. State Department. The Environmental Impact
10 Statement concluded that Keystone would have no
11 significant impact on the environment.

12 As you have no doubt hear, pipelines are
13 the safest and most reliable way to transport oil.
14 It makes complete sense to construct the Keystone
15 pipeline to transport oil from our oil sands to
16 refineries in the U.S. We need this oil, our
17 dependence on the Middle Eastern oil that made us
18 vulnerable; and now we have an opportunity to
19 purchase crude oil from our nearest and closest ally.
20 It makes no sense whatsoever to let this oil go
21 elsewhere.

22 Much of the opposition to this oil is

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1 based on misinformation. For instance, there are
2 persistent claims that oil and gas exploration in
3 Alberta is damaging the environment in that region.
4 But the report of the Royal Society of Canada found
5 no evidence that surface waters were being polluted
6 by the industry there. The report also noted that
7 greenhouse gas emissions from the oil sands make up
8 about 5 percent of Canada's total emissions, compared
9 to 16 percent for fossil fuel power generation and 27
10 percent for transportation.

11 In terms of global emissions, the oil
12 sands contributes 0.8 percent of the greenhouse gases
13 worldwide. In fact, failure to approve Keystone
14 could actually increase greenhouse emissions, because
15 importing refined oil from the Middle East and
16 elsewhere creates a much larger carbon footprint than
17 the pipeline from Canada does.

18 It is also important to note, according to
19 the State Department's environmental impact study, no
20 sole source of aquifers, or aquifers serving as the
21 principal source of drinking water for an area are
22 crossed by the proposed pipeline.

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1 The Department also determined that
2 because of special conditions imposed on Keystone,
3 the project would have a degree of safety greater
4 than typically-constructed domestic oil pipeline
5 systems. Oil from Canada oil sands will without a
6 doubt lessen our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.
7 The International Energy Agency has noted that
8 Canadian oil sands represents one of the few growth
9 areas among non-OPEC countries.

10 The Agency also notes that Canada's proven
11 oil reserves ranks third behind Saudia Arabia and
12 Venezuela. Keystone capacity could eventually
13 account for an amount equivalent to nearly half of
14 the Persian Gulf imports. We need only look to the
15 recent past to be reminded that more secure oil
16 supplies as well as increased supplies have led to a
17 drop in prices at the gas pump.

18 Finally, during this time of serious
19 national recession, the jobs created by the Keystone
20 project are substantial and should be part of any
21 decision made on this project. The project should be
22 approved now. Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 Speaker No. 37.

4 MR. SIMPSON: Thank you for allowing me

5 the opportunity to speak. My name is Dane Simpson,

6 I'm a member of the Laborers International Union of

7 North America, and I'm also a member of the National

8 Alliance for Fair Contracting.

9 The National Alliance for Fair Contracting

10 is an advocate for safe, qualified, good-paying jobs.

11 We're there to ensure a fair, level playing field in

12 the construction industry. But what I've heard today

13 is people that support this project but want it

14 rerouted and need more time.

15 What I'd like to say is that when a

16 construction worker has bills piling up, do they get

17 more time? When a construction worker can't pay

18 their mortgage, do they get more time? When the

19 credit card companies are sending you letters between

20 you're delinquent in your payments, do you get more

21 time?

22 I know there's a lot of people in this

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1 audience that are college students, and they're going
2 to have college loans piling up soon. They're not
3 going to get more time, either. That's why we can't
4 wait for these construction jobs; we need jobs now.

5 (Applause)

6 Please grant this permit and let us go to
7 work. Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 Speaker No. 38.

11 MS. LEACH: My name is Ruth Leach, I'm a
12 lifelong resident of Nebraska, but I'm not
13 necessarily only thinking about Nebraska. They've
14 said almost everything today that I had on my paper
15 to say, on the people that were for moving the
16 pipeline route, and I was all for Heineman, when he
17 said that I was thrilled.

18 And I thought, "Is anybody in Washington
19 paying any attention at all to what this is saying?
20 Do they really know that there is no perfect thing
21 made by human man? There's nothing ever made that
22 won't leak."

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1 (Applause)

2 So we have to go on 'when it leaks on the
3 current route.' I'm sure you all know exactly what
4 the aquifer is and what it will do. But do you have
5 any idea how big that is, the aquifer? It is -- let
6 me look because I don't remember numbers well -- It
7 is 174,000 square miles. It's not just Nebraska,
8 it's over South Dakota, it's over Oklahoma, and it's
9 over Texas. It's not just those states, either. The
10 things that we have smaller places where it's over
11 smaller areas, and that New Mexico and so forth,
12 Colorado, New Mexico. Smaller areas. It doesn't
13 just affect Nebraska. It doesn't just affect these
14 eight states. It affects you in Washington, D.C. 82
15 percent of the groundwater drank in the United States
16 -- not Nebraska, the United States -- is furnished by
17 the Ogallala Aquifer.

18 (Applause)

19 Thirty percent of the irrigated land
20 that's irrigated by ground water, we're not talking
21 about rivers -- and heaven knows, we've had enough
22 rivers around here -- but it's over the whole United

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1 States that uses this. Not to mention the wheat and
2 the corn and the stakes that the corn fed, they're
3 done by the irrigation that is there. We're talking
4 about a major food source. We're talking about a
5 major source for the United States.

6 You wanted to know what it had to do with
7 the entire country? That I had to say, that's what
8 it has to do with the entire country.

9 The next thing to say that hasn't been
10 said already, after we know now that's going to leak,
11 that oil pipe is going to leak. There is a legal
12 precedent for protecting this Ogallala Aquifer. In
13 1980, a Texas farmer won his battle with the nuclear
14 waste dump with only a possible chance of getting the
15 Ogallala Aquifer. If you'd go ahead and go with this
16 pipeline, because I feel sorry for the people --
17 well, these guys don't work in Nebraska, but they
18 work in the United States, and I want them to have
19 jobs. I'm not sure about pipelines, how we need
20 them, how much oil we need, blah-blah-blah, all of
21 that; but move again, move it away from the aquifer.
22 Give us a chance.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 39.

5 MS. TULQUIST: Thank you. My name is

6 Heidi Tulquist, I am an environmental toxicologist

7 and risk assessor with AECOM, that is an

8 environmental consulting firm. I've been working in

9 this field for 23 years, and for the last 16 years

10 specifically evaluating pipeline risk and the

11 environmental consequences of spills.

12 Most of my pipeline risk assessment work

13 has been for federal agencies, but for the last four

14 years I've been using the same types of analysis to

15 evaluate impacts associated with the Keystone XL

16 pipeline.

17 Based on my professional experience and

18 technical expertise, the Keystone XL pipeline poses

19 minimal risk to the environmental resources,

20 particularly the Ogallala Aquifer. Concerns that the

21 Ogallala Aquifer could suffer severe impacts if a

22 pipeline spill were to occur are completely

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1 unfounded.

2 Impacts to ground water, if any, would be
3 highly localized. Let me explain. First of all,
4 Keystone recognizes the importance of ground water in
5 Nebraska, but it's a common misconception that the
6 Ogallala Aquifer is an underground reservoir where
7 oil and spread indefinitely. Rather, the Ogallala
8 Aquifer is a complex, heterogenous geological
9 formation composed of sands, gravels, silts and clays
10 that have been deposited over millions of years
11 through deposition of streams across Nebraska.

12 The Ogallala Aquifer acts as a sand
13 filter, where water moves slowly, moving
14 approximately one foot per day, moving from the West
15 to the East. That equates to 365 feet per year. The
16 Keystone XL route crosses the Eastern tip of the
17 Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska. So the majority of the
18 Ogallala Aquifer is upgradient of the pipeline.

19 For groundwater impacts to occur, a series
20 of events have to happen. First, a spill would need
21 to occur in an unconfined area within shallow
22 groundwater, and a spill would have to be of

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1 sufficient size to reach the groundwater. And the
2 spill would have to have time to reach the
3 groundwater surface.

4 Fortunately, the majority of the route is
5 located over confining geological materials, which
6 prevents surface contamination from reaching the
7 Ogallala Aquifer. Even if the spill was not
8 immediately cleaned up, as is required by state and
9 federal laws, crude oil itself has limited mobility
10 in ground water.

11 Field studies have been conducted all over
12 the United States that have repeatedly demonstrated
13 that impacts to groundwaters are typically limited to
14 300 feet or less. Further, once the contamination
15 reaches the groundwater surface, there's little
16 vertical migration across the aquifer. Thus, any
17 impacts would be limited to the uppermost portion of
18 the aquifer.

19 Thus in the unlikely event of the spill
20 that would reach groundwater, impacts would be highly
21 localized both horizontally and vertically in the
22 aquifer.

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1 Based on several years of intensive study
2 of this route, it is my professional opinion that he
3 Keystone pipeline does not pose a significant risk to
4 groundwater in the Ogallala Aquifer. The Final EIS
5 concluded that there was no incident scenario that
6 could affect the entire Ogallala Aquifer.

7 In the unlikely event that a spill did
8 reach groundwater, impacts again would be highly
9 localized, and Keystone would be required to
10 remediate groundwater to meet federal and state water
11 quality standards.

12 I urge the Department of State to approve
13 the Presidential Permit and a favorable decision on
14 the national interest determination. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 40.

18 MR. WILDS: Thank you for the opportunity
19 to provide testimony on the Keystone XL project. My
20 name is Robert Wilds, I'm a special pipeline
21 representative of the International Union of
22 Operating Engineers.

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1 The International Union of Operating
2 Engineers represents 400,000 construction workers
3 across the United States. Contractors employing
4 operating engineers and the other crafts that are
5 represented here today, have constructed over 30,000
6 miles of pipeline in the last ten years. The
7 Keystone XL project will create thousands of jobs in
8 construction, manufacturing at a time when the
9 construction industry and the economy really needs a
10 boost.

11 The construction works will spend their
12 wages from this project in communities along the
13 pipeline route, given all the local economy some
14 much-needed revenue. As far as manufacturing jobs,
15 they will come from the pipe being made in Arkansas,
16 the valves being made in Ohio. Construction
17 companies such as Caterpillar and John Deere and
18 their dealers, servicing the equipment and building
19 equipment for this project.

20 Creating more jobs means more tax revenue
21 and more benefits for our communities. This \$7
22 billion private sector project will be built without

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1 the use of public funds. Along with Canadian crude
2 that this pipeline will import to the United States,
3 a large portion of the pipeline's capacity will be
4 taken up with American crude from North Dakota, and
5 Montana.

6 The Keystone XL pipeline will be state-of-
7 the-art in technology and safety. The Department of
8 Transportation statistics show that pipelines are the
9 safest, most economical and ecological way to
10 transport crude oil and natural gas across the United
11 States.

12 The Keystone XL project will be regulated
13 by the Department of Transportation. The company
14 will also be mandated by the Pipeline and Hazardous
15 Materials Safety Administration to incorporate 57
16 special conditions along the whole pipeline route,
17 conditions to which no other whole pipeline in the
18 country is subject to. From special construction
19 techniques to enhanced specifications and design
20 materials, these conditions ensure the commit to
21 safety by all parties involved in the construction,
22 operation and regulation of this project.

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1 The environmental review is clear: This
2 pipeline will improve the environment and the safety
3 of the general public. It will also reduce our
4 dependence on heavy crude oil from unstable foreign
5 countries. That of course improves our national
6 security.

7 Some people may ask how could a pipeline
8 secure our national security? It already has been
9 proven in past history that a pipeline has helped our
10 national security. In the 1940s President Franklin
11 Roosevelt ordered the construction of the Emergency
12 War lines from Texas to the East Coast. They were
13 called the Big Inch and the Little Big Inch; a 24
14 inch and a 20 inch crude oil line to go to the
15 refineries on the East Coast to supply our
16 manufacturing facilities, which were all on the East
17 Coast at that time, so we could man the war -- in
18 World War II. They were tankering the oil around
19 before from Texas, the Germans were sitting out in
20 the Atlantic, the German U-boats, sinking the
21 tankers.

22 We had to do something. Kept our military

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1 men and women who were putting their life on the line
2 so that we would have the right to come here and
3 demonstrate our opinion on what we are doing here
4 today, from both sides. If it were not for those
5 pipelines, those people would have lost their lives
6 in World War II in vain.

7 With that being said, the International
8 Union of Operating Engineers supports the development
9 of the Keystone XL projects and it believes it is in
10 the interest of all Americans. Therefore, on behalf
11 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, I
12 respectfully request that the Department of State
13 please find TransCanada XL project in our national
14 interest and approve the Presidential Permit. Thank
15 you for the opportunity to comment today.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker No. 41.

19 MS. KRUZE: My name is Bonnie Kruze. I'm
20 a Nebraska past state president of the General
21 Federation of Women's Clubs. I'm a member of the
22 League of Women Voters, I'm a Rotarian. I'm a member

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1 of the Seward County Ground Water Guardian Team, and
2 I am a member of the Seward Citizens on Pipeline
3 Route Committee. I'm a concerned and active citizen.

4 Pipelines break, leak and spill. Deny the
5 Presidential Permit for the XL pipeline. This is not
6 a knee-jerk reaction; it is based on what we have
7 learned and observed. TransCanada will only do what
8 the U.S. Department of State requires them to do to
9 get the pipeline built. What TransCanada agrees to
10 do and what they actually do are two different
11 things.

12 Instead of fixing a problem up front, they
13 try to negotiate their way out of it or pass the
14 buck. We learned and observed this when the first
15 Keystone pipeline was built. There are lots of
16 examples, from violating road haul agreements,
17 failing to restore the land, to bullying land owners.
18 But I only have three minutes.

19 So do you really think you have thought of
20 everything? After reading the EIS executive
21 statement, I don't think so. This pipeline is to be
22 built from steel and pipe made in China, which has

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1 only 75 percent the strength of U.S. steel.

2 Let's talk about real jobs. The best
3 welders cannot make up for the weak pipe made in
4 China.

5 (Applause)

6 The U.S. Department of State is not
7 demanding that the pipeline be made of strong U.S.
8 steel that would indeed create a significant number
9 of jobs. Deny the Presidential Permit. Pipelines
10 break, leak and spill.

11 The EIS statement indicates reporting,
12 report, record keeping, certification, for the final
13 eight conditions for certification, from the senior
14 officer of Keystone that has complied with the
15 special conditions. This action is tantamount to
16 putting the fox in charge of the hen house. Deny the
17 Presidential Permit. Pipelines break, leak and
18 spill.

19 The EIS statement says, a no-spill
20 incident scenario with the entire Northern High
21 Plains Aquifer system be adversely affected.
22 Professor John Stansbury, Associate Professor of

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1 Environmental Water Resources Engineering at the
2 University of Nebraska, an instructor for the U.S.
3 Army Corps of Engineers Risk Assessment Program
4 reported that a spill in the Sand Hills above the
5 aquifer could dump as much as 180,000 barrels of
6 crude oil, tanking the vast water supply in the
7 region.

8 The EIS was developed by Entrix, the same
9 company that is used by both U.S. Department of State
10 and TransCanada. It is obvious that the EIS is
11 biased in favor of TransCanada. The U.S. Department
12 of State has failed to respond to Stansbury's
13 analysis of worst-case spills from the proposed
14 Keystone XL pipeline. Pipelines break, leak and
15 spill. Deny the Presidential Permit.

16 The U.S. Department of State has the power
17 to demand that this pipeline be moved away from the
18 aquifer; but no, the EIS statement says: The Western
19 alternative was eliminated since it was financially
20 impracticable.

21 If you can't afford to build this pipeline
22 right, using the strongest U.S. steel, and you can't

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1 afford to place it in a route to avoid the Sand Hills
2 region and the Ogallala Aquifer that supplies
3 drinking water to 2 million people, then you have no
4 business building the pipeline at all.

5 (Applause)

6 Pipelines break, leak and spill. Deny the
7 Presidential Permit.

8 What about the threat of terrorism? This
9 pipeline is to be built only four feet underground
10 through the Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies drinking
11 water for 2 million people. Maps of the location of
12 this pipeline are easily obtainable. And it wouldn't
13 take a major blowup of the pipeline. The EIS
14 analysis acknowledges the pipeline system can spill
15 as much as 1.7 million gallons of diluted bitumen a
16 day without triggering the real time leak detection
17 system.

18 Pipelines break, leak and spill. Deny the
19 Presidential Permit.

20 This pipeline is not in the national
21 interest. The oil in this pipeline is from tar
22 sands, mined and developed by foreign-owned companies

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1 operating in Canada. The oil is to be pumped through
2 a pipeline built by TransCanada from steel and pipe
3 made in China, and transported through the United
4 States, putting U.S. land and water at risk so the
5 oil can be sold to foreign countries.

6 Once this pipeline is in the ground, we
7 are forced to live with it and its consequences for
8 generations to come. Secretary of Energy Chu, you
9 can't have your cake and eat it, too. There's no
10 trade-off to risking the environment for a reliable
11 supply. Pipelines break, leak and spill. Deny the
12 Presidential Permit.

13 Behold! a pipeline cometh. Machines zoom
14 large will snort and growl, behemoths gobbling up the
15 soil, gouging and gorging earth's deep bowels, fia-
16 mounts (ph) explained, a mindless toil.

17 Disrupted earth, your water rages, of
18 flights upon trains so fair, not again add shameful
19 pages to God's trust placed in his care.

20 Blades and Boards have sown the fields,
21 raking clefts across the plains, granary cades with
22 stunted yields, laments the loss of promised gains.

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1 Like viscous fluid pulses on through
2 gaseous crests upon the earth, bystanders played the
3 role of pawn as pipes snaked subtle throbs of dirth.

4 Piked payments scratch at what is lost,
5 time only passed will answers give. Children to come
6 shall bear the cost, praying their families safely
7 live.

8 Uncertain life within us grows, we wait on
9 God to show us light, trusting that He only knows,
10 teaching us what's true and right. [Phonetic]

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Before I call on 42, I stated at the
14 outset that we would accommodate your elected
15 officials to the extent that we could. And I
16 understand that Senator Bill Avery wanted to be here
17 today but couldn't because of a death in his family.
18 So he has asked that his staff member, Patrick Adams,
19 speak on his behalf.

20 And so Patrick, if you can come forward
21 and give the remarks on behalf of your Senator, we'd
22 appreciate it. If you could make them as succinct as

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1 possible, we'd appreciate it.

2 MR. ADAMS: I'll try. First of all, thank
3 you and welcome to the 28th District. This is Bill
4 Avery's remarks on the pipeline:

5 For the record, I am not
6 opposed to an international pipeline. I
7 realize that there are currently hundreds
8 of natural gas and oil pipelines across
9 Nebraska and across the United States. I
10 have sent a letter to President Obama and
11 Secretary Clinton indicating that while I
12 do not oppose the pipeline or its purpose,
13 based on our historical needs for oil and
14 gas, I have several very serious
15 reservations about TransCanada's
16 operations and procedure for route
17 approval.

18 I am extremely concerned
19 about TransCanada's questionable record
20 of pipeline maintenance. Keystone I has
21 already experienced 12 spills in its first
22 year, but claims no fault because those

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spills were at pumping stations. That's more first-year spills than any other pipeline in U.S. history. Keystone I was recently issued a Federal Corrective Action Order in June 2011 by the U.S. Department of Transportation to take necessary action to protect the public, property and the environment from potential hazards associated with two spills this summer in Sargent County, North Dakota and Doniphan County, Kansas.

There is absolutely no denying that spills will happen. Enbridge dumped over one million gallons of tar sands crude into Michigan's Kalamazoo River, polluting and closing the waterway to fishing and swimming for six months. ExxonMobile spilled 42,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River, contaminating National Park waterway. The good people of Louisiana, where I attended Tulane University, will suffer for decade from

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the tragedy of British Petroleum's
offshore explosion.

3 Spills can and will happen.
4 They will poison our waterways and kill
5 our wildlife. The Sands are home to the
6 endangered Whooping and SandHill Crane
7 migratory bird species, the endangered
8 American Burying Beetle, and dozens of
9 waterfowl and wildlife. Even worse,
10 viscous tar sands, which won't float like
11 sweet crude, will sink into our porous
12 Ogallala Aquifer, contaminate our clean
13 water systems, and cause catastrophic and
14 irreversible damage. If we don't stop
15 this now, future generations will forever
16 wonder why we allowed this to happen.

17 I am opposed to
18 TransCanada's questionable and deceptive
19 tactics. It's a very serious problem when
20 a foreign corporation can enter your State
21 and dictate what's going to happen on our
22 private property.

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1 (Applause)

2 Property that has been held by generations
3 of Nebraskan family farmers. The U.S.
4 State Department must acknowledge that
5 TransCanada did not have proper permits to
6 threaten to invoke eminent domain. It's
7 unethical and it's against the law. I
8 have a copy of the letter that they sent
9 to landowners threatening land
10 condemnation, intimidation and deception
11 of our citizens is real.

12 Furthermore, I am outraged
13 that TransCanada has briefed our
14 legislative staff, partnered with our
15 local unions, sent the Consulate General
16 of Canada to meet with me, sponsored our
17 Nebraska State Fair, and implied
18 University of Nebraska backing on Husker
19 game days, all while declaring to be our
20 friend.

21 Friends don't send hostile
22 letters to innocent landowners. They

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don't infiltrate our state with
unsubstantiated illusions about increased
jobs and decreased oil prices at a time
when working families, farmers and cattle
ranchers are clinging to their livelihoods
and barely making ends meet. Friends
don't turn a deaf ear when a state pleads
for them to shelter their drinking water
from toxic crude oil and their fragile
ecosystems from erosion.

Our two U.S. senators have
said no. One U.S. Representative has said
no. Our Governor, Dave Heineman, has
asked the president to deny TransCanada's
permit based on location. Our university
has told TransCanada to get their
advertisements out of Memorial Stadium.
Thirty Nebraskans peacefully protesting
TransCanada's tactics have been arrested
at the White House. Our Legislature is
seriously considering, and I support, a
costly special session to protect our

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1 State from TransCanada's refusal to hear
2 us that your aquifer is Nebraska's most
3 precious resource.

4 They've threatened our
5 landowners with eminent domain and land
6 condemnation, invaded our airwaves and
7 newspapers with confusing and manipulative
8 advertising and made questionable
9 political contributions to our lawmakers.
10 Today, TransCanada has caused hundreds of
11 Nebraskans take the day off, drive across
12 the State, and show up again to voice
13 their serious concerns. How many more
14 times can Nebraska tell you: We do not
15 want the Ogallala Aquifer and Sand Hills
16 adversely affected by TransCanada's dirty
17 tar sands sludge.

18 The Final Environmental
19 Impact Statement report indicated that for
20 65 miles, Keystone XL pipeline will be
21 less than 10 feet away from the aquifer.
22 That simply is not acceptable. The

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1 aquifer provides 78 percent of Nebraska's
2 clean drinking water, and provides 83
3 percent of Nebraska's total irrigation
4 water and crops.

5 We do not want TransCanada
6 jeopardizing our clean water, irrigation
7 source or the livelihood of Nebraska
8 family farmers with vague and unfounded
9 promises. We will not risk a spill on our
10 watch. I've heard the arguments about
11 ending our dependence on foreign oil;
12 about Canada being a friendly nation we
13 can count on; about TransCanada being a
14 neighbor who will invest in our
15 communities. I understand about the need
16 for new jobs in a time of economic
17 instability, and quite frankly, I am not
18 moved. I am simply not convinced that
19 these promises can and will be guaranteed
20 by TransCanada.

21 Are we willing to simply
22 gamble away Nebraska's environmental

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1 future on uncertainties or temporary labor
2 jobs and oil that, once refined, is not
3 earmarked for American use? On a company
4 who has a history of deceptive trade
5 practices and faulty equipment
6 installation?

7 Given that TransCanada
8 refuses to be a friend and acknowledge
9 their corporate responsibility, Nebraskans
10 will continue to be resolute in their
11 stewardship of our environment, our land,
12 our history and heritage for the future of
13 our children. We are unwavering in our
14 support for what our families have spent
15 generations protecting, and we will not
16 back down.

17 There is a solution, and we
18 all know it.

19 (Audience remarks.)

20 May I finish? I've to one paragraph yet.

21 May I finish?

22 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can speed it up.

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MR. ADAMS: All right.

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Absent a good faith effort

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from TransCanada to voluntarily propose to

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Nebraska another pipeline route, the U.S.

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State Department must reject this

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application and TransCanada must move the

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Keystone XL pipeline east. Get it off the

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majority of the Ogallala Aquifer, keep it

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out of our extremely fragile ecosystem.

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Why is it so hard for TransCanada to move

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the pipeline east? To follow its existing

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Keystone I pipeline route? Is it because

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they were deceptively acquiring land ahead

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of their application approval and would

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not have to obtain new landowner easement

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rights?

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Let me remind you:

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TransCanada's bottom line is not our

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problem.

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It is incumbent on the U.S.

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State Department to reject approval of

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this permit and require TransCanada to

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1 reroute the Keystone XL pipeline away from
2 the Sand Hills and Ogallala Aquifer. Then
3 and only then will this project win our
4 confidence and likely acquire broad
5 support in Nebraska. The Keystone XL
6 pipeline may be in the national interest,
7 but the route is absolutely not in
8 Nebraska's interest. As Nebraskans, we
9 respectfully request -- no, we absolutely
10 demand the rejection of TransCanada's
11 permit application.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 42.

16 MR. KRUZE: My name is John Kruze, I'm a
17 Rotarian and Landowner. I'm a member of the I'm a
18 member of the Seward County Ground Water Guardian
19 Team, and the Seward Citizens on Pipeline Route
20 Committee. Today I'm speaking to you as a Rotarian.

21 The Rotary four way test is used to
22 evaluate what we think, say and do. The test asks

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1 the following questions: Is it the truth? Is it
2 fair to all concerned? Will it bring good will and
3 better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all
4 concerned?

5 The Final Environmental Impact Statement
6 for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline fails the four-
7 way test. The Final EIS is not true. The most
8 pertinent point is the administer for PHMSA has
9 stated to Congress multiple times that the PHMSA has
10 not studied the safety issues regarding diluted
11 bitumen, and present safety regulations do not take
12 any differences into account.

13 In addition, University of Nebraska's John
14 Stansbury, Associate Professor of Environmental,
15 Water Resources at the University of Nebraska, and an
16 instructor for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Risk
17 Assessment Program submitted an extensive analysis of
18 worst case bills from the proposed Keystone XL
19 pipeline. This analysis documents numerous
20 discrepancies and inaccurate science which have been
21 ignored by the U.S. Department of State.

22 U.S. DOT maps show that high consequence

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1 areas are out of date and currently, there is no
2 procedure for updating those maps. The EIS is not
3 fair to all concerned. The EIS cites the issues of
4 environmental justice from minority and low income
5 populations. At the same time there's nothing in the
6 EIS that addresses the use of eminent domain.

7 Landowners who were offered at one time
8 payment in perpetuity have been bullied into signing
9 easement agreements under the threat of eminent
10 domain before the Presidential Permit has been
11 determined. The pipeline devalues their land and
12 puts their land, water and livelihood at risk. Koch
13 Industries, with annual revenues estimated to be \$100
14 billion, is well-positioned in cash in billions of
15 dollars from increased tar sands imports from the XL
16 pipeline. At the same time, the EIS states, the
17 Western alternative route, which would avoid the
18 Ogallala Aquifer, was eliminated since it was
19 financially impractical.

20 The EIS does not build good will and
21 better friendships. The EIS is an embarrassment.
22 The EIS, in supporting the pipeline while stating the

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1 fact that producing oil from tar sands generates 17
2 percent more of the carbon and other greenhouse gas
3 emissions that are warming our planet than
4 conventional oil in this country. It is 19 percent
5 dirtier than Middle East sour; 13 percent dirtier
6 than Mexican heavy, and 16 percent dirtier than
7 Venezuelan crudes. This is embarrassing.

8 This EIS does not ensure that there is a
9 strong science and policy basis for our environmental
10 policy. The United States needs to be a leader to
11 move the nation to greater reliance on increased
12 energy security and protect the public health and
13 environment especially in the sensitive areas of our
14 country.

15 How can we build good will and better
16 friendships when we don't respect ourselves? How can
17 we build good will and better friendships on a
18 pipeline built on greed? The EIS and the XL pipeline
19 is not beneficial to all.

20 In a letter to President Obama, nine Nobel
21 laureates including the Dahli Lama and Desmond Tutu
22 and the Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi

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1 urged President Obama to reject the proposed
2 pipeline, saying it will not only hurt the people in
3 the U.S., but will also endanger the entire planet.

4 The letter states:

5 All along its prospective
6 route, the pipeline endangers farms,
7 wildlife and precious water aquifers,
8 including the Ogallala Aquifer, the U.S.
9 main source of fresh water for America's
10 heartland. We are aware that Nebraska's
11 Governor, Dave Heineman, as well as two
12 Nebraska Senators, has urged you to
13 reconsider the pathway of the pipeline.

14 In his letter to you, it
15 clearly stated his concern about the
16 threat to this crucial water source for
17 Nebraska farmers and ranchers. The
18 aquifer supplies drinking water to 2
19 million people in Nebraska and seven other
20 states. We understand that strip mining
21 and drilling tar sands from under
22 Alberta's Boreal forest, and then

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1 transporting thousands of barrels of oil a
2 day from Canada through Texas will not
3 only hurt the people in the U.S. but will
4 also endanger the entire planet.

5 After the oil fields of
6 Saudia Arabia, the full development of the
7 Alberta tar sands will create the world's
8 second-largest potential source of global
9 warming gases.

10 As NASA climatologist James
11 Hansen said, "This is essentially 'game
12 over' for the climate.'

13 The U.S. fails the Rotary four way test; a
14 review by the White House Council on Environmental
15 Quality is in order.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 43.

20 MR. GROSS: Thank you. My name is Tom
21 Gross. I'm a Special Representative over pipeline
22 and gas distribution for the United Association of

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1 Journeymen and Apprentices in the Plumbing and
2 Pipefitting industry, United States and Canada.
3 Thank you for allowing me to address this hearing. I
4 represent 340,000 members of the United Association
5 along with their families. The UA, as my
6 organization is known, provides highly trained
7 craftsmen and women who build everything from homes,
8 schools, hospitals, power plants, manufacturing
9 facilities. Our members will be the ones to
10 construct the Keystone XL pipeline.

11 It is important to the United Association
12 that everyone understands that the security of our
13 environment is, and will continue to be, an important
14 concern to us. We are deeply committed to preserving
15 our air, water, natural resources for the future
16 generations. What we also know, pipelines have
17 already been shown to be the safest as well as the
18 most economically viable and environmentally secure
19 way to transport oil.

20 I have seen firsthand the construction of
21 pipelines throughout North American, and I can tell
22 you that when the UA is involved, you can rest

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1 assured that they are built with the utmost skill,
2 integrity, and commitment to safety. The UA spends
3 more than \$200 million a year in training our members
4 for these type of projects.

5 The State Department is correct when it
6 states the Keystone XL pipeline will have minimal
7 environmental impact. The route has been carefully
8 prepared, rerouted to ensure fragile aquifers will
9 not be disturbed.

10 This project will continue the tradition
11 of environmental integrity that the UA and our
12 signatory contractors have demonstrated for many
13 decades. Keystone is the most scrutinized project in
14 recent memory. I can think of no project that has
15 been reviewed more thoroughly than this one, but
16 that's fine with us, because we know that this
17 project will be safe and environmentally sound;
18 that's how we build our pipelines.

19 Four of the most important questions
20 facing our nation today are: How can we create more
21 jobs? How can we increase our energy supply while
22 reducing our dependency on oil from the Middle East?

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1 How can we further ensure our national security? And
2 how can we do all this and still protect our
3 environment?

4 The TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline
5 project can help answer all three of those questions.

6 So perhaps another important question should follow:
7 How can we say no to a project that can go a very
8 long way in answering each of these questions? The
9 reality is, we cannot.

10 Creating jobs, enhancing energy
11 independence, improving national security, the
12 Keystone pipeline will do all of these and more.
13 Please support this important project for all
14 Americans. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 44.

18 MS. BENNETT: I'm Betsy Blake Bennett from
19 Hastings, Nebraska. I'm a Deacon in the Episcopal
20 Diocese of Nebraska and a Board Member of Nebraska
21 Interfaith Power & Light. Welcome to Nebraska.

22 I share the concerns of other Nebraskans

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1 about the effects of this proposed pipeline on our
2 land and water. But my testimony focuses on the
3 discussion of greenhouse gas emissions in the State
4 Department's Environmental Impact Statement, which
5 says that the production and use of oil sands crude
6 has a greater carbon impact than other forms of oil,
7 but then dismisses that impact from consideration.

8 The arguments for this dismissal seem to
9 be that the carbon emissions gap between this and
10 other forms of oil might decrease over time, and that
11 the tar sands will be developed regardless of the
12 pipeline, so we in the United States may as well
13 cooperate in its development.

14 Suppose little Johnny steals a toy from a
15 neighbor's yard. When his parents tell him this was
16 wrong he says, "But if I didn't take it, Tommy would
17 have, so I didn't do anything wrong." His parents,
18 of course, will tell Johnny that stealing the toy was
19 wrong, even if someone else does take it in the end.

20 The moral logic of the argument that
21 without this pipeline, the tar sands will be
22 developed anyway, so we may as well have a hand in

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1 increasing greenhouse gas emissions is the same as
2 Johnny's defense of his wrongdoing, but with much
3 more at stake.

4 Our Episcopal House of Bishops last week
5 released a pastoral teaching on the environment. In
6 it our bishops say science confirms what we already
7 know; our human footprint is changing the face of the
8 earth, and because we come from the earth, it is
9 changing us, too. We are engaged in the process of
10 destroying our very being.

11 Deep down, we all do know that, though our
12 actions reveal that we aren't always honest with
13 ourselves about what we know.

14 Gary Trudeau's Doonesbury strip this
15 Sunday featured an interview with an honest man, who
16 said that he opposes development of a sound climate
17 policy because he cares much more for his own short
18 term economic interest than for the future of the
19 planet. This is the ideology of monetary gain before
20 all else. As a Christian, that is not my ideology.

21 (Applause)

22 The dismissal of the dangerously high

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1 amount of greenhouse gases released by development of
2 the tar sands mirrors such thinking. The arguments
3 favoring building this pipeline come down to possible
4 short term economic gain with no regard for the
5 future. And the way the environmental impact
6 statement addresses this issue, with assistance we
7 learned last week from TransCanada's lobbyists,
8 suggests that this State Department is more concerned
9 about short term political gain than the future of
10 the planet.

11 It is folly to omit the enormous climate
12 effects of mining, processing and burning the tar
13 sands from the decision-making process. Climate
14 change is not in our national interest, nor in the
15 interest of however many generations manage to come
16 after us, on the hot and storm-filled planet that
17 will be our legacy if we fail to act with wisdom and
18 with reverence for this earth that God pronounced
19 good at its creation.

20 With concern for our land, water and the
21 future of life in this State and on this planet, I
22 oppose permitting construction of the Keystone XL

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1 pipeline. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 45.

5 MR. Chrisensen:

6 Thank you, United States State Department for putting
7 these events on in Lincoln, Nebraska and Atkinson.
8 My name is Graham Christensen, I'm with the Nebraska
9 Farmers Union. I'm also a fifth generation farm kid
10 from Nebraska whose family has farmed in Nebraska for
11 144 years now; and so I can relate to the folks in
12 the Sand Hills that have been here just as long as
13 our family has, when they've been lied to,
14 manipulated, pushed around and threatened with
15 eminent domain. That this company does not have,
16 especially if the government hasn't even approved
17 this project.

18 This reminds me of a story that I was told
19 when I was younger, when I asked a Native American
20 friend of mine, "Why do you get concerned when you
21 call a football team the 'Indians'?" And he said,
22 "Because we're sensitive to this. When somebody asks

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1 you not to do something, why do you go forth and
2 continue to do this?" This was a lesson for me on
3 respect.

4 And Nebraskans now are saying "We do not
5 want this in our back yards, we do not want to
6 jeopardize our livelihoods and our life blood in this
7 aquifer. There is no need for this." But this is a
8 bigger issue. This is about transporting energy from
9 tar sands that are not even necessarily owned in big
10 parts by the Canadians, but China, Korea and many
11 other countries as well shipping it through a
12 Canadian pipeline down to the Southern ports in the
13 Gulf Coast that aren't necessarily completely
14 American-owned, either.

15 So how does it make sense that all of a
16 sudden we become a country -- how is it in the best
17 national interest that we become a country that at
18 all cost will ship this product all the way through
19 without having much decision period on where this
20 product will go to, and the end result. We'll be
21 competing against China, South America, India and the
22 United States will compete, too. But when we finally

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1 get this energy source -- if we get to use it
2 domestically, we will be at increased and inflated
3 gas rates.

4 How is this in our national best interest?

5 This makes absolutely no sense at all. So this is
6 not good for either country; not the United States
7 nor Canada -- neither country is this good for the
8 common person. And anyway, all this is good for is
9 Big Oil, and at our expense, with our lifeblood at
10 stake.

11 But the good news is we have a choice
12 right now. We have a choice to change our energy
13 direction. We have a choice to create opportunity
14 from right here, starting in Nebraska, all throughout
15 the country, with different kinds of energy sources.
16 We're so blessed with the natural resources that we
17 have, with all kinds of different energy sources from
18 these natural resources. Cleaner energy, energy that
19 creates a long term scenario of jobs; not just a
20 short-term stimulus.

21 A long-term scenario of jobs where
22 agricultural teams up with labor to make this happen.

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1 We can do this. But we need a little bit of help
2 here. It's obvious where the numbers of people are.
3 They're on our side of this issue, for the folks that
4 are educated. We can create a long term scenario
5 that gets this economy back in place right now, or we
6 can do the short term stimulus that pushes us years
7 back.

8 Finally, just don't ignore the signs that
9 are going on in this world. Catastrophic disaster,
10 one after another. Spill after spill, pollution
11 contamination of ways that we've never seen before.
12 Unexplainable, but they're speaking to us. Don't
13 ignore these signs.

14 Make the right decision here, President
15 Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, United States
16 State Department: Stop this project in its tracks.
17 Do the right thing. Let's create a future for our
18 kids and for the future generations, and let's
19 continue to lead as a country by creativity and
20 innovation for years and years to come. Don't let us
21 be that country that just caters to the energy needs
22 of others. We need to be the global leader, we need

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1 to lead by example. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 46.

5 MR. SWANSON: Thank you for being here
6 today. My name is Paul Swanson, I'm retired emeritus
7 from the University of Nebraska, and currently an
8 organic farmer.

9 I speak today opposed to the current
10 pipeline proposal, primarily because of the route.
11 People today earlier have talked in terms of the
12 importance and the uniqueness of the Ogallala
13 Aquifer. We have seen disasters, a great number in
14 the last few years, and I would submit that they are
15 primarily man-made disasters.

16 Why? Because we built a great city below
17 sea level in the midst of a large hurricane area.
18 That decision was made years ago. I would submit that
19 the same sort of decision was made in Japan when they
20 built on a major fault a nuclear reactor, knowing the
21 almost inevitable consequences.

22 Today we have the opportunity to make the

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1 first decision and avoid that disaster.

2 (Applause)

3 I oppose this pipeline for that the
4 reason. I am favor, however, of an alternate route
5 that totally avoids the Sand Hills and the Ogallala
6 Aquifer. We look today only at economics and only
7 for the short term. I would submit to you the time
8 is coming when water has greater value than oil, even
9 in economic terms.

10 (Applause)

11 Biological life cannot survive without
12 water, and the Ogallala Aquifer is one of the world's
13 largest high quality water sources. Therefore I ask
14 that you reject this pipeline. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 It's now approximately 3:25. What I'd
18 like to do is call on Speaker 47, and then we can
19 take a break. We will resume at 4 o'clock with
20 Speaker No. 48; 47, if you can speak, thank you.

21 MS. DUNAVAN: My name is Susan Dunavan.

22 I'm a land owner in Southern York County, Nebraska,

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1 whose native pasture is in the path of the proposed
2 Keystone XL pipeline. I am not a liberal, an
3 environmentalist or a radical; I do not belong to any
4 extremist groups. But I am concerned about our water
5 supply, the contamination of the Ogallala Aquifer,
6 and the proposed route of the pipeline.

7 I am also disturbed that a foreign company
8 can come into our country, into the State of Nebraska
9 and threaten me, not just once but twice, with
10 eminent domain condemnation before any permits are
11 issued.

12 Five different land agents have approached
13 us over the last two years to sign easements. We
14 have sent five certified letters to TransCanada,
15 including two certified letters to Robert Jones, Vice
16 President of TransCanada, that remain unanswered.
17 Each easement that was offered to us raised more
18 questions. We would write another certified letter,
19 it would still remain unanswered.

20 I do not understand how a company that can
21 spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on advertising
22 in newspapers, magazines and television, and does not

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1 have the courtesy or the money to answer a
2 landowner's letter.

3 (Applause)

4 Is the Keystone XL pipeline in the best
5 interest of the United States? The Environmental
6 Impact Statement mentions that the exact destinations
7 of the oil that would be transported by the proposed
8 project area are uncertain. Is supplying Canadian
9 oil to the rest of the world in our national
10 interest?

11 Is the proposed route through the Ogallala
12 Aquifer the best route for the pipeline? TransCanada
13 said that they did not want to change their route
14 because their expenses would increase. Is that our
15 concern? Is not our water source more valuable than
16 a foreign company's bottom line?

17 (Applause)

18 I have heard Vice President Robert Jones
19 of TransCanada quote Jim Goedecke, a research
20 hydrologist at the University of Nebraska on many
21 occasions. I've read a quote from Jim Goedecke
22 stating that "any risk from an oil sands spill would

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1 be restricted to a small part of the aquifer." To
2 me, any part of the aquifer is way beyond acceptable.

3 (Applause)

4 How many jobs would the pipeline create
5 for Nebraskans? I read the testimony of Dave Hayes,
6 international representative of the Laborers Union of
7 North America which was given at the natural
8 resources hearing on February 9, 2011. He said that
9 250 temporary workers would be hired. Is hiring 250
10 temporary laborers worth jeopardizing the drinking
11 water of over 2 million people?

12 (Applause)

13 I am hoping that you see the folly of
14 putting an oil pipeline through the water supply of
15 millions of people. Do not allow the Presidential
16 Permit to be issued. If a Presidential Permit is
17 granted, insist that the pipeline route be moved so
18 it can be built in clay soil instead of sand and
19 water. The Ogallala Aquifer and the Sand Hills of
20 Nebraska are national treasures that need to be
21 protected and preserved.

22 (Applause)

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 Let me just repeat, we're going to take a
3 break until 4 o'clock p.m., and we will resume at
4 that time with No. 48. Thank you.

5 (Recess.)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: We are about to get started.

7 I'd just like to make a couple of comments before we
8 hear from Speaker No. 48.

9 First, I'd like to thank everyone for
10 being here. We have currently over 200 speakers that
11 have signed up, and I think that's an indication of
12 the importance you attach to this issue.

13 Given the number of speakers, we would
14 very kindly ask that you limit your remarks to three
15 minutes. You can certainly submit your comments in
16 writing; you can do that today. We are accepting
17 written comments through midnight, October 9th. You
18 can fax comments to us. We really want you to be
19 able to convey your views to us in a variety of
20 means.

21 We're also going to display the card after
22 two minutes, and then when your time is done. Again,

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1 we understand the importance you attach to the issue,
2 and we want to hear from as many speakers as
3 possible.

4 One thing you might consider is if a
5 previous speaker has expressed your sentiment, you
6 could just consider indicating that, and shortening
7 your statement. But again, we'd like to hear from as
8 many people as possible.

9 So with that, I'd like to call on Speaker
10 No. 48. If you can state your name and affiliation.

11 MR. DUNAVAN: Thank you. Ms. Hobgood and
12 Mr. Stewart, Hillary Clinton, my name is Bill Dunavan
13 of 1312 Road 6, York, Nebraska in the south part of
14 the county. I'm a landowner whose property is in the
15 path of the Keystone XL pipeline, and I've been
16 threatened twice with condemnation proceedings.

17 It's one thing to be asked to give up your
18 property rights as an American citizen, but I think
19 we might be giving up something else as well,
20 something that the administration may not want to
21 become notorious for. One thing might be the safety
22 regulations.

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1 Isn't it true that every local gas station
2 has a tank buried with liner, and aren't all the
3 above-ground petroleum tanks surrounded by dike and
4 berms and a huge network to protect the rest of the
5 area in the case of a spill? In Nebraska we have
6 center pivot systems; some of these irrigation
7 systems are hydraulically powered; and if these lines
8 are underground, they are also surrounded by a
9 protective covering. It seems like these have been
10 the way things are for the past 20 or 30 years, and
11 yet we're suspending them for the sake of the
12 pipeline.

13 Why would you put something that's under
14 very high pressure, carrying 750,000 barrels a day
15 and not be required to do what the rest of us must
16 do?

17 But a second, more important issue, we
18 might be suspending the Constitution of the United
19 States in order to grant eminent domain powers to a
20 foreign company. Does anyone else not find
21 permission to do this in the 5th Amendment or 14th
22 Amendment?

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1 And does the Constitution allow for
2 eminent domain to assist with someone's export
3 business? The slogan 'oil for America' touches all
4 of us, but you may definitely won't to be sure that
5 before approving a careless project, that this oil is
6 directed to one of the largest seaports in the United
7 States for a reason. On its way overseas, the oil in
8 this pipeline will be the cause of much-degraded land
9 and water in Nebraska, and will have polluted our
10 Constitution in the process. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 49.

14 MR. WALBERG: My name is Mark Walberg, I'm
15 from Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks to you all for coming
16 out here.

17 It doesn't take a scientist to look at any
18 of the world's current oil spills to see that
19 petroleum permanently destroys any ecosystem that it
20 comes into contact with. Which is a major reason why
21 there's so much opposition from Nebraskans here
22 today.

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1 But it does take scientists to properly
2 measure the risks involved in routing a tar sands
3 oil/bitumen pipeline through the Sand Hills. We need
4 a truly independent, scientific analysis that is
5 accepted by the scientific community, not an
6 assessment done by and for Big Business.

7 Because of this need, I ask that you delay
8 your decision to route an oil pipeline through the
9 Sand Hills until you can be sure that it will not
10 harm it. There are many federal agencies that
11 specialize in this.

12 Additionally, there are no regulations in
13 place that protect the American landowner from tar
14 sands oil companies. In determining a route for this
15 pipeline, I ask that you respect and defend American
16 landowners' rights to say no to risking their own
17 land to an oil spill. That is another major reason
18 there are so many Nebraskans here today.

19 Please do not allow us to be steamrolled.
20 Please reject this permit for the Keystone pipeline.

21 Lastly, oil is a limited resource, which
22 means once we've depleted this resource, our country

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1 and our world needs to have alternatives in place.
2 Petroleum is the backbone that supports many
3 industries, and once it is gone we need to make sure
4 that these industries can continue to thrive.

5 And while I appreciate that you've come
6 here today to ask how to proceed with the dirty and
7 soon-to-be exhausted energy supply, I would also
8 suggest that our government develop an exit strategy
9 for it. Please do this before you exhaust the
10 unrenewable resource that is our clean environment
11 and our ecological systems. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 50.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Hello, thank you for being
16 here. My name is Tyson Johnson, I'm student at the
17 University of Nebraska here in Lincoln. I'm here
18 because I'm standing in firm opposition to this
19 pipeline, and because this pipeline is in no way
20 involved with the future my generation was promised.

21 I realize that it might be easy to write
22 off my testimony as just another college activist,

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1 because I've firmly grasped the entirety of this
2 situation; but I just don't believe that's the case.
3 I grew up in a small town, less than 200 people; many
4 of whom, my neighbors, my friends, members of my
5 family on agriculture, our farmers, our ranchers.
6 And my town survives from this agriculture sector.

7 Our State, our economic engine, it starts
8 there. Anything that puts that in so much jeopardy,
9 it should not be considered.

10 Nebraskans for months now have constantly
11 questioned, refuted and shown what TransCanada has
12 said is either wrong or exaggerated; and in response,
13 we've gotten the runaround, we have been told that we
14 are liars. Even today in response to our concerns
15 about a spill in the aquifer, we've been told that
16 it's unlikely it probably won't be that bad.

17 "It probably won't be that bad" is not a
18 response that I'm willing to take when my water and
19 my natural resources are put at risk. And I see a
20 lot of people behind me in orange shirts, many of
21 whom were bused in from out of state, but I think if
22 you remove the swath, I think it's quite evident

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1 where Nebraska stands on this issue, and we are
2 against it. And it's not because I do not realize
3 the concerns or understand why they appear; the need
4 for jobs I great and it's present, but these are
5 short term jobs that do not outweigh the cost or the
6 potential risk of this project.

7 And in a broader sense, why not put these
8 people to work with permanent jobs that come from a
9 renewable or greener source; not a source that is
10 detrimental to everything and everyone along this
11 pipeline route, from the destruction occurring in
12 Canada in the exubation (ph) of the tar sands to
13 every state that this pipeline will pass through, if
14 it is allowed.

15 Now earlier, Mr. Friend and others told me
16 that -- others here, that my opposition to this is
17 based in extremist ideology, and that I need to
18 educate myself on the free market. And in working
19 to get my degree from the university in economics, as
20 a freshman indeed they do teach us the benefit of the
21 free market economy; and that is why I draw into
22 question why it wasn't asked that, or pointed out

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1 that China is a key investor in Canadian tar sands
2 oil. While Valero, a key exporter in oil, has said
3 that it is likely that China would be the highest
4 bidder.

5 Whether or not this pipeline goes through,
6 it is likely that much of this oil, through the free
7 market, is going to end up in another country; and
8 that is why this pipeline is not a solution to our
9 national security. We keep hearing 'national
10 security, national security' -- how can it be a
11 solution when we are not guaranteed this oil in
12 America?

13 And we've been --

14 (Applause)

15 I'm not entirely convinced that especially
16 the concerns of Nebraska have been realized -- I'll
17 wrap this up -- but I just want to say, I agree with
18 others when in this environmental impact study that
19 has constantly been brought up as a way to justify
20 this pipeline, we have to call into question the
21 report in its entirety, as it is giant conflict of
22 interest that Entrix, a company who has been an ally,

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1 has worked with TransCanada and other companies such
2 as BP, was used to draw up this report. I think
3 that's outrageous. I think you can imagine the
4 outrage from the other side if an organization like
5 Sierra Club was used to draw up this report, there
6 would definitely be calls from everyone else.

7 That's something we need to question. We
8 need to reevaluate the scenario, and we need to
9 revoke this pipeline, and I call Mr. -- for President
10 Obama to deny the permit. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 51.

14 MS. DUCKWORTH: Hello. I'm Linda
15 Duckworth, President of the League of Women Voters of
16 Nebraska. I'm from Omaha. And before I get started,
17 I want to say thank you to my new friend, Randy
18 Weaver of Hastings; and he asked me if I would say to
19 you "Remember the trees and remember that they will
20 be affected by any oil spill."

21 And now I'm Susan Anthony for just a
22 second. And I declare, I feel like fool standing

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1 here in my Susan B. Anthony getup, but if it gets
2 your attention for a short while, my embarrassment
3 will have been worth it. [In costume]

4 Susan Anthony did say, after all,
5 "Cautious, careful people always casting about to
6 preserve their reputations never can bring about
7 reform." Reform is needed badly if we are going to
8 preserve and/or repair our environment. I'd like to
9 share what the League of Women Voters has to say
10 about this:

11 The League of Women Voters
12 of Nebraska supports a water policy which
13 promotes wise use and care of water
14 resources, guided by the principle that
15 water be managed in the public interest.
16 Further, we have studied this particular
17 issue for years, and have taken a position
18 on the Keystone XL pipeline. It is this:
19 Deny the permits and allow TransCanada to
20 go back to the drawing board with routing
21 plans.

22 I know you have been hearing reasons for

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1 approving the project, and will continue to; but you
2 may have noticed, they all point to short term profit
3 of some sort. Otherwise, no benefits to Americans,
4 none.

5 It's time we looked to our future. I
6 remember as a college student in the Seventies we
7 began to take an interest in more renewable forms of
8 energy. Somehow the time never seemed right to our
9 elected leaders; always there was something, whether
10 inflation, jobs, corruption, nuclear proliferation
11 fears; but always something kept us from doing what
12 we knew would need to be done eventually. That
13 something is getting ourselves away from dirty energy
14 that runs our water supply.

15 A good first step is to say no to the
16 pipeline carrying tar sands oil mixed with toxic
17 chemicals. That mess, hurtling through a pipeline at
18 up to 60 miles per hour has no business going
19 anywhere near our Ogallala Aquifer or our fragile
20 Nebraska Sand Hills. Of course there will be leaks
21 and spills, and the cleanup will not be a true
22 cleaning.

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1 I've heard it said that the administration
2 is in big trouble with one group or another no matter
3 what decision is made. Between a rock and a hard
4 place, in other words. So I say, "Go ahead and make
5 the right decision." TransCanada knows the route
6 they've all but built is a poor choice from an
7 environmental standpoint. But TransCanada can go
8 back and take another look at other routes. If the
9 result is a longer pipeline, then perhaps even more
10 jobs, short term though they are, will be created.

11 Let us remember that the term --

12 (Audience remark)

13 You've said 'thank you' so I guess I will not tell
14 you what my last paragraph was going to say. But I
15 do want to say, a good first step is for the U.S.
16 Government in the form of our Department of State to
17 deny the permits for the currently-proposed
18 TransCanada XL pipeline. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker 52.

22 MR. TETHEROW: Good afternoon. I'm Jim

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1 Tetherow, and I'm affiliated with my family. I fully
2 understand that my opinion represents approximately
3 one six billionth of the world population. I thank
4 you for allowing me to express it.

5 Now I'm usually very reluctant to make
6 predictions, especially about the future. But in
7 this case, I want to say that no matter how carefully
8 planned, no matter how skillfully constructed by our
9 union friends here, no matter what beautiful
10 safeguards are put in place, I have the full power of
11 Murphy's Law behind me when I predict: This pipeline
12 will leak.

13 (Applause)

14 When it leaks, the spillage will find its
15 way to the Ogallala Aquifer. Once there, it's there
16 forever. This water is underground, you can't skim
17 it off the top, you can't burn it off the top; it's
18 just there.

19 Now I'm probably not going to be alive for
20 this tragedy to have any effect on me, but I'm
21 concerned about my great and great-great
22 grandchildren. I'm concerned about them having to

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1 drink oil. I'm concerned about them watering their
2 vegetable gardens with oil. I'm concerned about them
3 watering their crops and livestock which feed a great
4 portion of the world with oil. I wonder how happy
5 they're going to be when they have to bathe their
6 babies in oil.

7 The propaganda we've been exposed to on
8 our media tells us this pipeline will ensure the
9 security of our oil supply. This is patently a lie,
10 as the refined product is not guaranteed to stay in
11 America; it will be put on the world market and sold
12 to the highest bidder.

13 We're being told that allowing this
14 pipeline will lower the price of gasoline at our
15 pumps. Really? I'll believe that when I see it.

16 We've been promised anywhere from 2500 to
17 40,000 jobs -- depending on whose lies you're hearing
18 -- however many jobs there are, that's wonderful.
19 Our working families will benefit from the income,
20 our businesses, all levels of government, our
21 churches and charities will benefit from this income
22 -- that's wonderful.

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1 We're reminded that there are already many
2 miles of pipelines crossing our state. This is true.
3 It's also true that these existing pipelines leak.
4 I'm not really opposed to the building of this
5 pipeline; I'm extremely opposed to the route chosen
6 by Keystone for this pipeline. I'm outraged,
7 outraged at the thought that we will allow a foreign
8 company to come to the United States with a cavalier
9 disregard for the safety of our water supply and tell
10 us what they are going to do and where they're going
11 to do it.

12 (Applause)

13 I'm dismayed that the State Department
14 would even give this -- let me be kind here --
15 idiotic proposal enough consideration to create the
16 need for this meeting. Now, Washington, D.C. is a
17 totally different economic world from Nebraska. You
18 ma'am and you, sir, probably make what many
19 Nebraskans would consider an obscene income.

20 As your ultimate taxpaying employer, I ask
21 you not to approve of the pipeline to be built along
22 the route currently being proposed by Keystone.

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1 This company is known as TransCanada; tell them to
2 trans across Canada, build their own refineries and
3 pollute their own country.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 Speaker No. 53.

7 MR. FREEMAN: Hello. My name is John
8 Freeman. A lot of passionate, opinionated people
9 have spoken before me, so I'll be very brief.

10 Clearly, intelligent people can disagree.
11 I have lived in Nebraska all my life and I've worked
12 in the energy industry for 30 years. I believe in
13 TransCanada's focus on safety and environmental
14 stewardship. I know for a fact that this project
15 will create real jobs without federal stimulus
16 dollars.

17 Oil will be part of our energy profile for
18 a few more decades, and Keystone XL represents a
19 reliable, secure and abundant source from a
20 government with which we share substantial culture
21 and values. Many Nebraskans, including myself,
22 believe that this pipeline is in the national

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1 interest. Thank you.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 54.

5 MR. GRAZIANO: Hello, my name is Steve

6 Graziano, and I live in Lincoln, Nebraska. I just

7 moved back to Lincoln; I spent several years recently

8 in Louisiana. And in Louisiana you learn the

9 importance of oil to the economy of the state and to

10 the nation as a whole.

11 You also learn the importance of the

12 environment in Louisiana, as a food source, as a

13 source of economic development. I was down south in

14 Louisiana when the BP oil spill took place, and I saw

15 firsthand the damage that it did to both the coast

16 and to the economy.

17 Now earlier today I heard a state senator

18 quote the U.S. State Department's report saying that

19 any spill from the XL pipeline would not damage the

20 entire Ogallala Aquifer. And that word caught my

21 ear, the 'entire' Ogallala Aquifer. It probably

22 wouldn't; but all it has to do is affect the part

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1 that we drink from to cause a real problem.

2 Now I think we ought to build that people,
3 but I don't think we ought to build it on top of the
4 aquifer. Because as we've seen in the Gulf of
5 Mexico, and as I saw myself personally, oil and water
6 do not mix. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 55.

10 MR. MILLER: Thank you for the opportunity
11 to speak here today. My name is Randy Miller. I am
12 here with members of the union, Pipeliners Local 798.
13 Many of those members live here in Nebraska,
14 Oklahoma, Texas. This particular group, my group of
15 798 Pipeliners are 7,000 strong. Included within
16 that group are the thousands of the very best welders
17 this nation has, the best trained, the absolutely
18 best managed, best supervised, most accountable
19 workforce that this could have.

20 I have spent the last 30 years dealing
21 with environmental issues relating to the pipeline.
22 This pipeline is only acceptable to Nebraska, to my

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1 home State of Oklahoma -- I live on a farm there, I
2 did live on a farm there. I grew up on it.

3 If it's built right. If these welders
4 don't put it together right, then this pipeline is
5 not going to last the hundred years that it's built
6 to last for. So the neighbors, our members that the
7 are neighbors with the folks here and our members
8 that are out there building the kind of
9 infrastructure this nation has to have to move into -
10 - for the next generation and beyond.

11 We're all glad to be here, and our
12 position is: Build this right, TransCanada. Or
13 really, as somebody said, don't build it at all.
14 "Build it right or don't build it at all." And we
15 believe TransCanada is building this right; it's
16 designed right, they've hired the right labor -- not
17 because of expense or not to say the dollar -- they
18 brought in the people necessary to build the best
19 pipeline that technology can build.

20 Now there is a thing that hasn't been done
21 here, and it's really important that everybody
22 listen; and I love the way that everybody's talked

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1 back, but there has to be a reality check on the
2 passion that is present in this room, both from the
3 Nebraskans and from those that are here from out-of-
4 state. I've seen this passion before, when my
5 Oklahoma Sooners came up here to play the
6 Cornhuskers, every now and then, before the Huskers
7 left our conference.

8 But the reality is, the placement of this
9 XL, the Keystone XL is as advantageous as any of the
10 other alternative routes could have possibly been.
11 You can shove it over to the east and into the
12 drainage basin and the bottom lands of the rivers
13 over there, or you can move it the other direction,
14 further into the Ogallala. But the fact of the
15 matter is if this thing leaks, it can only move east
16 and south. At three feet a day and ten years, it
17 would have moved only slightly more than a half a
18 mile, if it was left unattended.

19 This pipeline is literally a needle
20 dropped in to a haystack that is built, has been
21 built by the good Nebraskans that live near the Sand
22 Hills and on them; but once that pipeline is there,

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1 given the other things that exist in this area that
2 are part of this community and culture, that needle
3 can neither be found nor can it be seen; it will
4 cease to exist.

5 Take this into account: There are 255
6 underground storage tanks in the Sand Hills area.
7 Those contain 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of gasoline
8 each. Now if they're -- on any given day, those are
9 full, we're looking at 3.8 million gallons of
10 gasoline floating on the Sand Hills aquifer, and
11 don't you tell me that these USTs don't leak. I've
12 spent my 30 years of my career looking --

13 (Audience: "Time.")

14 MR. MILLER: It's only because you don't
15 want to hear it.

16 (Audience remarks)

17 MR. MILLER: Here's the other thing:

18 There are 2250 -- There are 2250 USTs.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Can we have silence? Can we
20 have silence.

21 And if you can speed up your comments,
22 because you have run out of time.

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1 MR. MILLER: There are 2250 USTs in
2 Nebraska on the Ogallala Aquifer. If they're all
3 filled at any given time, which they are, we're
4 talking about 34 million gallons of gasoline on the
5 aquifer.

6 The point I want to make is: We can get
7 our oil from this country. We can ship it to
8 Nebraska for the farmers to use or not. But the fact
9 of the matter is that this culture was created -- we
10 will bring the oil here to them, but they have to
11 have it. Thank you.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 (Applause and boos.)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 56.

15 MR. FISHER: Thank you for the opportunity
16 to speak. My name is Bert Fisher. I'm a geologist;
17 I hold a Ph.D. in earth sciences from Case Western
18 Reserve University and a bachelor's in geology and
19 geophysics from Yale University. I've worked in the
20 general field of environmental geosciences for 38
21 years, including stints with the petroleum industry.
22 And I've spent the last 21 years really in great

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1 detail dealing with environmental issues as they
2 pertain to hydrogeology, contamination of soil and
3 groundwater.

4 I've taught petroleum geology at the
5 University of Tulsa, and still do from time to time,
6 as well as environmental geochemistry. And I would
7 consider myself an expert in the movement of
8 hydrocarbons in ground water and in the remediation
9 of hydrocarbons in soil. And I'm from Oklahoma,
10 which is an oil producing state.

11 I work today mainly as an expert; I do a
12 substantial amount of expert witness work, and I'm
13 going to have to live with whatever I say today;
14 because when I say it again, an opposing attorney
15 will throw it out at me if I ever reverse my feeling.

16 Just suffice it to say that I've worked
17 for industry and I have also worked on behalf of
18 landowners, and in the last ten years, mainly for
19 landowners. And also suffice it to say that when I
20 am involved in something, that generally related to a
21 misadventure of the oil and gas industry.

22 Now I'll also say this, that over the past

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1 year and a half, I've worked in taking a look at
2 pipeline construction issues across the United
3 States, as they pertain mainly to geotechnical
4 issues, but also to their safety.

5 And I've done this on behalf of pipeline
6 union Local No. 798, as an independent expert working
7 for them. I've heard a lot of things today that I
8 really agree with. One is that we're concerned about
9 our environment. But I've also heard things that I
10 don't agree with, and I don't agree with them on a
11 technical basis.

12 One is "the whole aquifer is at risk."
13 It's not. The pipeline's current route is in the
14 Northeast corner of the Ogallala Aquifer, and where
15 it crosses the Sand Hills the gradient -- water flows
16 down-gradient, in this case mainly downhill -- is to
17 the east and south, away from the bulk of the
18 aquifer. It does not endanger the drinking water
19 supply of two million people.

20 Number 2, that the oil is somehow from
21 other types of oil, that it's filled with toxic
22 materials. Well, you know, it's really very similar

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1 chemically to Mexican Mayan heavy crude or the
2 California heavy crudes, chemically, and it would
3 have the consistency of something like 40 or 50
4 weight motor oil, pretty thick stuff.

5 And it's not going to sink into the
6 aquifer. It's still lighter than water; it would
7 float. And its viscosity is quite high, so it can't
8 move very easily through the aquifer, and it's not
9 going to mix and be miscible with water that's
10 present in the aquifer.

11 If there are spills, and there certain
12 have been, most of them have been very small, as
13 small as five gallons that have been brought out. So
14 I'm here to tell you that this is not an unsafe
15 pipeline; it doesn't threaten your aquifer, and it
16 doesn't threaten the drinking water supply of two
17 million people. Thank you.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 57.

21 MR. O'MARA: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Mike O'Mara. I'm International Representative for

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1 United Association, representing 13,000 members in
2 Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. I've also
3 served for the past ten and half years as an elected
4 member of St. Louis County Council, representing over
5 145,000 residents.

6 The geographical boundaries of my district
7 include Civil War Museum properties, the confluence
8 of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the Lewis and
9 Clark Exploration Trail, and a unique area which is a
10 geological area which consists of underground streams
11 and caverns.

12 We've also preserved historical
13 communities of the early Spanish and French settlers,
14 and designated archaeological sites, where digs still
15 take place and numerous Native American artifacts
16 have been uncovered.

17 I feel it is my responsibility to
18 represent the constituents in my community, and also
19 to protect the environment. A major pipeline runs
20 from Wood River, Illinois, which is just on the other
21 side of St. Louis, over in Illinois, underneath the
22 areas mentioned, to Lambert-St. Louis International

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1 Airport with no negative impact.

2 The TransCanada Keystone XL project
3 promises to create thousands of good-paying jobs,
4 financed entirely with private funds and addresses
5 the old-age dilemma of dependency on foreign oil.

6 One of the questions came up about, the
7 last couple days is: Where is this oil going? And
8 between Venezuela and Mexico, their decreasing their
9 supply to the United States. With our reserves, this
10 oil will be able to keep up with those reserves and
11 maintain the loss that we have lost through the other
12 independents; Venezuela and Mexico.

13 I am a fourth generation pipefitter. I
14 have a nephew that's a fifth generation pipe fitter.
15 I have a son that has a master's in architecture and
16 still looking for work. I know we're on some tough
17 times here, and I really respect the thoughts and
18 concerns of the environment.

19 Based on my personal background and
20 experience with the impact of pipelines, I have no
21 reservations in requesting the State Department to
22 permit the TransCanada Keystone XL project to move

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1 forward.

2 And with that, I just left the St. Louis
3 area, and I filled up my tank two days ago, and we
4 get fed from Conoco-Phillips over in Wood River; and
5 I filled up my tank and it was 2.92 a gallon from the
6 St. Louis area.

7 With that, I appreciate, Madam Chair, your
8 time.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 MR. O'MARA: And I respect -- I want to
11 thank Lincoln, Nebraska for their opportunity here.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you very much.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 58.

16 MR. QUICK: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Kim Quick. I'm the president of Teamsters Local 554.
18 We have offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island,
19 Sioux City, Iowa. We're an affiliate of the
20 International Brotherhood of Teamsters to speak here
21 today in support of the Keystone XL pipeline project.

22 There is nothing new about the pipelines

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1 in the United States except that more than a dozen
2 interstate pipelines were built in the past five
3 years without serious incident. Work has been
4 completed on the Millenium project, the Towsman (ph),
5 the Chesapeake in the East, while the Marcellus Shale
6 project is still underway.

7 In the central region of the United
8 States, work is currently being done on the Keystone,
9 Alberta Clipper, Southern Lights, the Rocky Mountain
10 Express and the Illinois-Ohio-Minnesota-Wisconsin-
11 Kansas and Indiana. In the South, the Tiger pipeline
12 runs across the states of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana
13 and Florida. In the West, the Ruby project is being
14 worked on through the States of Oregon, Nevada, Utah
15 and Wyoming.

16 These pipeline projects have brought an
17 economic boom during the worst economy in recent
18 history. It is expected to create over 13,000 union
19 jobs, which will put money into local communities.
20 Pipeline workers will pump money into local grocery
21 stores, restaurants, convenience stores, campgrounds,
22 motels and apartments. Pipeline companies use a

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1 tremendous amount of supplies, which much is procured
2 locally including fuel, concrete, gravel and waste
3 removal.

4 Pipeline projects help balance state and
5 local budgets by throwing off considerable tax
6 revenue. The Keystone XL project is projected to
7 provide more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to the
8 states along the Keystone corridor. The project is
9 in our national interest as well as our local
10 interest; it will improve America's security by
11 providing a stable energy supply with a friendly,
12 reliable neighbor, Canada.

13 The pipeline will be constructed using
14 industry best practices, and will meet or exceed all
15 existing pipeline regulation standards. Thank you.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 59.

19 VOICE: I'm Speaker 60, if 59 doesn't show
20 up.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: You may proceed.

22 MR. GERHARD: All right. I'm Bill

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1 Gerhard, I'm a member of the Laborers International
2 Union of North America. I want to speak today, I
3 know a lot has been said on both sides of the
4 subject. I just want to talk about my personal
5 experience on the pipeline.

6 I was a business manager in the Laborers
7 local in the early Eighties, and if we can go back to
8 the Eighties, I know a lot of people in here weren't
9 even born in the Eighties, but we are in the depths
10 of Reaganomics and the trickle-down theory.
11 Unemployment was in double-digit in construction; it
12 was 40 percent. We received free cheese from the
13 government to make sure that we didn't starve.

14 I was fortunate enough to have a pipeline
15 come through my jurisdiction. We had hundreds of
16 laborers working on that project; there were hundreds
17 of fitters and welders and welder's helpers; a
18 hundred operating engineers, a hundred Teamsters. It
19 was an economic boom. And the most encouraging thing
20 was to see the looks on people's faces when they went
21 out to work, knowing they were going to be working
22 six ten hour days, they were going to get paid well,

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1 they were going to have health insurance, and they
2 were going to have a pension. It made a lot of
3 families healthy, it made a lot of the communities
4 around my hometown healthy, too.

5 I just want to clear up something that was
6 said earlier. In construction we don't consider
7 these short term or temporary or part-time jobs; we
8 consider these construction jobs. For anyone in
9 construction knows that the minute you walk on the
10 job, you're actually working to put yourself out of
11 work, because once that project's done, you move on
12 to another project.

13 So I want to thank you for your time and
14 me being here to speak. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 61.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 62, you may
20 proceed.

21 MR. LATIMERR: Good afternoon and welcome
22 to Lincoln, Nebraska. I trust you'll enjoy your time

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1 in the state. My name is Robert Latimerr, and I'm a
2 proud employee of TransCanada, I'm happy to say that.

3 I've lived in Nebraska three years, I
4 moved here from the State of Oregon, and I moved to
5 the U.S. in 2001. Previously I worked in the gas
6 pipeline industry in the province of Alberta, had a
7 brother that actually worked at the tar sands, oil
8 sands operation at Syncrude in Northeastern Alberta.
9 I know a little bit about the oil and gas business.

10 I get a little concerned when we start
11 running down Canada here at this forum. As a
12 resident of the United States here for the last ten
13 years, I look at Canada as a friendly nation, the
14 longest undefended border in the world; an ally in
15 World War II, Korea -- and I'll let you know, an ally
16 in Afghanistan where Canada has shed much blood of
17 their soldiers and their diplomats in fighting the
18 battle of terrorism over there with Americans and
19 other NATO forces.

20 (Applause)

21 Energy security. Energy coming from
22 Canada, a reliable, safe, secure supply. I believe

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1 it's in the national interest of the United States
2 and the people of Nebraska to proceed with this
3 pipeline. That's all I have to say.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 Speaker No. 63.

7 MR. BOZEK: My name is David Bozek, and
8 I'm a resident of Omaha, Nebraska. I support the
9 Keystone XL people because of its benefits to
10 Nebraska and the nation. The Keystone XL pipeline
11 will contribute to our nation's energy security,
12 which is more critical than ever, given today's rural
13 economy and the instability around the globe.

14 Canada is our neighbor, our ally, and will
15 supply a stable supply of energy from a democratic
16 country with high environmental and safety standards.
17 Canadian oil reduces our dependence on foreign oil
18 from countries that are hostile to our nation, our
19 democracy and freedom.

20 The State Department has completed an
21 exhaustive environmental impact statement which has
22 concluded that none of our nation's precious natural

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1 resources will be adversely affected. Of the many
2 routes evaluated by this review, it was determined
3 that the Keystone XL is the best alternative.
4 Alternative routes are found to disturb more land,
5 cross more waterways and cause more disruption for
6 all involved.

7 Finally, the XL pipeline will create
8 thousands of jobs, generate millions in tax revenue
9 for Nebraska alone, and will not require any
10 taxpayer-funded dollars.

11 Often in heated discussions, only the most
12 vocal or those with political clout are allowed to be
13 heard. I thank the State Department for allowing an
14 individual voice to appear today. I ask the State
15 Department grant approval for the Keystone XL as soon
16 as possible. Thank you, and God bless America.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 64.

20 MR. GROSS: I'm Jon Gross, licensed
21 geologist in the State of Nebraska. I'm a native,
22 Nebraskan, western Butler County, and a Doane College

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1 graduate, and I received my master's degree from the
2 University of Nebraska in geology in Lincoln.

3 I'm not a pipeline expert, but for the
4 past 25 years, I've been involved with leaking
5 underground storage tanks, both in regulatory and in
6 private geological environmental groundwater
7 investigations, relating to releases of petroleum
8 hydrocarbons in the subsurface.

9 In 1986, the Nebraska Legislature passed
10 the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances
11 Storage and Handling Act. This is the statute that
12 required the State Fire Marshal's Office in Nebraska
13 to regulate underground storage tanks through the
14 registration, leak detection, upgrades, proper
15 installation and reporting.

16 I was the manager of this underground
17 storage tank division of the State Fire Marshals for
18 four years, and during those four years we discovered
19 many releases mainly caused by bare steel tanks or
20 bare steel piping in the ground that were not
21 cathodically protected.

22 Other things, environmentally sensitive

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1 areas. In an installation of new tanks near a public
2 water supply, we have regulation that required
3 secondary containment of underground storage tanks;
4 it was within 500 feet of a public water supply.

5 Other regulations, we were challenging for
6 us, we're waste oil tanks, and heavy fuel oils like
7 No. 6 fuel that had to be heated in order to be
8 pumped through. How do you monitor something like
9 that to determine if it leaks, and if it did leak,
10 where would it go?

11 Once a release is reported to the State
12 Fire Marshall, the Department of Environmental
13 Quality in Nebraska, the NDQ requires the
14 investigation, remediation and site closure phases,
15 if necessary. In the early 2000s, after underground
16 storage tanks were either upgraded or replaced,
17 Nebraska had well over 5,000 sites with reported
18 releases. Several hundred of these releases were at
19 locations over the Ogallala formation and well over
20 1,000 of these were over the High Plains Aquifer.

21 Some of the worst UST releases are not the
22 big volume overfills, but instead the slow leaks that

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1 can't be detected through release detection. One
2 drop a second from an underground storage tank, a
3 gasoline tank, is approximately one gallon a day, 365
4 gallons a year or over 3600 gallons in a ten year
5 period. And once gasoline or diesel fuel is
6 released, it will travel downward to the soils until
7 it encounters an impervious layer or groundwater. In
8 groundwater it will migrate in the direction of
9 groundwater flow.

10 Gasoline contamination is characterized by
11 BTX concentrations, which stands for benzene,
12 toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes. And a dissolved
13 benzene plume is the most critical because it travels
14 further than any other constituents, and benzene is
15 also a known carcinogen. The MCL of drinking water
16 is 5 micrograms per liter, or 5 parts per billion.

17 In the sands of Nebraska's Elkhorn -- all
18 right.

19 Our company has been involved with dozens
20 of less sites over the Ogallala Aquifer and some of
21 these sites in the Sand Hills region. The depth of
22 groundwater ranges from less than five feet to

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1 someplace over 100 feet in others. Although the
2 groundwater has been impacted at all these sites, the
3 groundwater is above the Ogallala Aquifer. None of
4 our groundwater monitoring wells penetrate the
5 Ogallala formation, because they're encountered by
6 saturated groundwater. Thanks.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 65.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 66.

12 MR. HENDRICKS: Thank you. My name is
13 Danny Hendricks. I'm the business manager of
14 Pipeliners Local Union 798 and I represent over 6800
15 members nationwide. It is the organization comprised
16 of the most highly trained pipeline constructors in
17 the world, and we will be instrumental in
18 constructing the Keystone XL.

19 If you're going to build it, you need to
20 build it right. Where skilled labor is used,
21 TransCanada's commitment to building the best
22 pipeline possible is assured. Hopefully before we

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1 leave here today you will understand the importance
2 of this project, not only from a national security
3 standpoint but as a common sense approach.

4 We've had the privilege to work with
5 TransCanada for the last three years on the original
6 Keystone pipeline project, that was finished on time,
7 under budget, and with full compliance with all
8 federal, state and environmental laws. Build it, but
9 build it right.

10 Many of the remarks from the opposition of
11 the Keystone XL are about what-if. You know, as a
12 group of pipeliners, we've built lots of mega-
13 projects, much larger than this; the Rex project,
14 1700 miles of 36-inch and 42-inch. The Alliance
15 pipeline, 886 miles of 36-inch. The Vector, 350
16 miles of 42-inch. The Ruby, 680 miles of 42-inch,
17 and the Alaska pipeline.

18 All of these projects met with the same
19 opposition and many of the same what-ifs. All of
20 these mega-projects involve geographical obstacles
21 and challenges thought to be insurmountable to the
22 naysayers, much more than the aquifer. But through

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1 proper planning and advanced engineering today, they
2 all quietly lay in the ground, performing as a
3 conduit of energy for America's needs; built and
4 built right.

5 But you know really the most important
6 part for me is not about the jobs, even though it
7 would employ my members. The most important point
8 for me is this: We're going to continue to buy oil
9 in this country, at least for the next 10, 15, 20
10 years. Now we have an option of where we're going to
11 buy it from. If we continue to transfer the wealth
12 out of this country into OPEC countries that finance
13 wars against this country, we're doomed to fail,
14 period. It's going out at a million dollars a
15 minute. That's how much money we send to OPEC; a
16 million dollars a minute. Fact check it: It's a
17 half a trillion dollars a year. Nobody can afford
18 that, environmentalists can't afford it, labor can't
19 afford it, America can't afford it.

20 When you buy oil from OPEC countries, you
21 buy a barrel of oil and a barrel of problems. We
22 don't need that. When you buy from Canada, they

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1 share in our economy. Ninety percent of their people
2 live within a hundred miles of our border. They are
3 part of this economy; they are part of the solution.
4 And Madam Chairman, I stand here today and I say we
5 support Keystone XL pipeline and we need that permit.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 67.

9 Speaker No. 67.

10 Speaker No. 68.

11 Speaker No. 69.

12 DR. DOLEZAL; Thank you for being here,
13 and welcome to Nebraska. My name is Dr. Doug
14 Dolezal, and I'm here to speak in favor of the
15 TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline.

16 I'm a lifelong resident of Nebraska, born
17 and raised on a farm northwest of Lincoln. I
18 attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I
19 earned my three degrees.

20 After 33 years, I recently retired from
21 teaching high school mathematics, coaching and
22 teaching college math methods. As a former teacher,

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1 I am concerned about our schools losing school aid.
2 Construction of the pipeline and then its operation
3 will result in additional property taxes estimated in
4 excess of \$150 million, and will create a substantial
5 number of jobs which will also have a significant
6 positive impact on our local school districts.

7 As I was growing up, my parents and
8 grandparents instilled in me the importance of
9 analyzing the situation before making a decision.
10 Being a math person naturally, this followed with
11 what I was taught. And after analyzing this
12 situation, I'm in favor of the pipeline despite what
13 some people are saying.

14 Some people say that the pipeline is not
15 safe and is an accident waiting to happen. Can any
16 one of us be one hundred percent sure that when we
17 leave here today we won't be involved in a traffic
18 accident? We hope that we won't, but are we really
19 prepared if something does happen?

20 The Keystone XL pipeline has a detailed
21 emergency response plan in place that will be filed
22 with the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline

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1 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

2 Safeguards will be in place, and plans are ready in

3 that very rare chance that anything happens.

4 Keystone XL is prepared.

5 People are concerned that if there is a

6 spill, the oil will pollute the Ogallala Aquifer. It

7 is my understanding that most of the aquifer is at

8 least 100 feet below ground level. Which means that

9 through most of Nebraska, the oil is going to have to

10 pass through several layers of rock, sand and clay

11 before getting to the aquifer.

12 Now any of you who have ever farmed clay

13 ground know oil is not going to go through clay.

14 Water sure doesn't. Where the aquifer is closer to

15 ground level, plans are in place to encase the people

16 in a concrete coating to prevent any contamination.

17 Oil will not get to the aquifer. If it does, studies

18 have shown that it will not go far.

19 Still other people say that a spill will

20 contaminate the entire aquifer. Even though the oil

21 will not reach the aquifer, contaminating the entire

22 aquifer is physically impossible. Since the aquifer

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1 slopes down to the east, we all know that water does
2 not move up hill. Any of the aquifer up-slope of
3 where the spill occurs cannot be contaminated.

4 Yet others are unaware that we currently
5 have almost 21,000 miles of pipelines crossing
6 Nebraska, including nearly 3000 miles of hazardous
7 liquid pipelines. They have coexisted with the
8 Ogallala Aquifer for decades without harmful impact.
9 And don't forget that oil wells have been drilled and
10 are in production within areas overlying the Ogallala
11 Aquifer, including West Nebraska.

12 (Heckling)

13 Thank you for your time.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 Speaker No. 70.

17 DR. PIPHER: Good afternoon. Thank you
18 for being here. I've listened to every speaker
19 before me and I've got a couple of quick reactions
20 before I say a couple of things.

21 First off, I have liked every Canadian
22 that I have ever met.

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1 (Laughter)

2 Secondly, and I think that you guys have
3 probably noticed this, I've been hit with the process
4 that you've put in place here today, and I've noted
5 that most of the speakers today haven't been
6 extremists, they haven't been radicals, they haven't
7 been crazies; they've been good, decent citizens;
8 students, teachers, pipefitters here to try to
9 something for their country and their families, and I
10 think that's great.

11 My name is Jim Pipher, and I've come to
12 ask you to take the long view. I've lived my whole
13 life in Nebraska, my children and grandchildren all
14 live in Nebraska; my parents and grandparents all
15 lived in Nebraska.

16 And when you guys first came here and you
17 thought about Nebraska, maybe you thought about corn
18 and football -- I'm guessing by now -- you think
19 about water. As Senator Ben Nelson said when he was
20 governor, "Water is the lifeblood of our state."

21 (Applause)

22 We've seen lots of ads and heard lots of

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1 words talking about money, jobs, oil, the economy,
2 and national security. When it comes to national
3 security, nothing is more basic, elemental and
4 crucial than water.

5 (Applause)

6 It would be a real drag that if I had to,
7 I could go a week without driving my car; maybe I'd
8 borrow the mule that you could loan me -- but I can't
9 go a week without drinking water.

10 (Applause)

11 I'm asking you to take the long view.
12 Should this pipeline be built, it will be here a
13 long, long time. It will be here long after I'm dead
14 and buried; it will be here long after many of the
15 people who have built it are dead and buried. It
16 will be here for my great grandchildren, who I may
17 not meet.

18 You guys look kind of young, I hope you
19 have children, maybe you don't have grandchildren
20 yet. If not, maybe sometime in the future. Take the
21 long view. Your decision boils down to time and
22 priorities. Stated simply, our water is too valuable

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1 and necessary and important to risk; and when I say
2 risk, no scientist, no engineer, no human being can
3 unequivocally stand here and give an 100 percent
4 guarantee that problems aren't going to occur.

5 (Applause)

6 Without water, our security and well-being
7 is lost. Say no to this pipeline.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 Speaker No. 71.

11 MS. FISHER: Okay. I'm not really good at
12 speaking, public speaking, and I had a speech all
13 prepared, but I'm going to just throw it out the
14 window.

15 Most of the people have already talked
16 about things that I was concerned about; but there
17 was a gentleman that left earlier that was really
18 upset that he couldn't stick around all day to say
19 what he wanted to say. So I'm going to read an
20 article out of the Lincoln Journal Star that was
21 September 10th, 2011. And it's an article by Robert
22 White, and it must have been a news article off the

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1 wire from Los Angeles Times. And it says,

2 Rising fuel exports keep

3 U.S. gas prices from falling.

4 Oil prices have fallen, but U.S. drivers

5 aren't benefiting because the national

6 refineries continue to boost exports,

7 while reducing supplies available

8 domestically. The result could be seen in

9 the Energy Department's weekly survey of

10 service stations around the United States

11 nationally, and the Energy Department said

12 the average price claimed 4.7 percent a

13 gallon to 3.6 percent in the past week.

14 Anyway, I'm going to skip that part. But it said --

15 The U.S. petroleum balance of trade

16 continues to shift in a change that it is

17 both literal and figurative, said Tom

18 Kozel, Chief of Oil Analysis for the Oil

19 Price Information Service.

20 For the tenth week in a

21 row, Energy Department numbers show that

22 the country exported conservatively more

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1 refined product cargos than were imported.

2 Now that seems kind of weird to me, but.

3 Much of the refined product
4 involved exports in diesel, Kohl said,
5 meaning refineries are devoting more of
6 their production to that fuel at the
7 expense of gasoline. The customers mostly
8 are in Central America and South America.

9 Why are we exporting oil? If we have to resort to
10 having this pipeline coming through our country.

11 It's not oil for America. It's going to be oil
12 that's going to be shipped out on the open market.

13 (Applause)

14 We're not upset with Canadians;
15 TransCanada isn't Canadians. TransCanada is going to
16 be transporting oil that's going to come from all the
17 other forest that's going to be dug up that has
18 investors from China and other foreign countries that
19 have already went in and bought all the leases. And
20 they're going to be using that pipeline to transport
21 that oil down to our refineries and putting us at
22 risk.

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1 (Applause)

2 It's not there. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker No. 72.

6 DR. RICE: Good evening. I am Dr. Juanita
7 Rice. I'm a retired university professor, but I'm not
8 an egghead or an elitist or an intellectual; I come
9 from a farming and working class background. I live
10 in Nebraska, I'm here to speak for the people. I
11 wasn't paid, I wasn't shipped in, I'm not speaking
12 for anybody else.

13 (Applause)

14 I am opposed to the pipeline, and the
15 reason I want to speak is that I am not just opposed
16 to the particular route; I know that that is
17 important, and many people have addressed that. But
18 I want to talk about the overall global picture. I
19 can't bring you photographs of the devastation that
20 so-called tar sands mining cause. But you can find
21 some, and I wish you would.

22 The tar sands are the largest industrial

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1 project on the face of the earth. The tar sands
2 displace an area the size of Vancouver Island now,
3 and will grow to consume an area the size of the
4 State of Florida. The tailings ponds are so huge
5 that a few of them can already be seen from outer
6 space.

7 Then imagine yourself there, standing on a
8 mountainous toxic dam in full hazmat protective gear,
9 necessarily; inside your gas mask with tailing sands
10 skidding across your goggles, and staring out at a
11 poisonous tailings pond miles long, no end in sight.

12 According to U.S. legislation from 2007,
13 such oil as is exported from the tar sands, is
14 illegal for the U.S. to buy or sell. Allowing it a
15 free ticket, therefore, to flow via pipeline across
16 our country is like allowing cocaine or
17 methamphetamine to be carried across the country if
18 Canada legalized it.

19 (Applause)

20 They said they're willing to take care of
21 it. But what can that mean in a year, in a couple
22 of years that have seen BP spill in the Gulf, have

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1 seen the disaster in Japan, the disaster in the
2 Yellowstone River right now, in the Kalamazoo River.
3 How can you take care of that?

4 (Applause)

5 Moreover, and I guess this will be my last
6 point: I'm speaking for some non-people here today.
7 I love America not just for its human beings and its
8 money and its prosperity and its energy, but also for
9 the animals and wildlife that surround us.

10 (Applause)

11 We are in the central flyway -- some
12 species of birds, 100 percent of those species go
13 right through the Rainwater Basin where I'm from.
14 That is important. Caribou may be extinct in Alberta
15 in 30 years. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker 73.

19 MR. BOETTCHER: Bruce Boettcher, fourth
20 generation rancher. We as Nebraskans and Americans
21 are humanitarians. We feed the world. This is the
22 breadbasket of America, where the Ogallala Aquifer is

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1 located. When contaminated, we will be the ones who
2 need humanitarian aid.

3 This is a Canadian project and it needs to
4 stay in Canadian soil as long and as far as possible.

5 (Applause)

6 Let Canada assume more risk of their vital
7 ground. If this is not possible, then this project
8 needs to be scrapped. I'm appalled to think you
9 politicians would consider letting a toxic pipeline
10 of this stature cross a vital natural resource as the
11 Ogallala Aquifer, and that the EPA has no wrong
12 findings.

13 Evidently, a leak in the pipeline has no
14 impact on the environment. I'm a rancher who works
15 with metal and safety switches every day. Safety
16 switches fail. Metal cracks, breaks, and wears out.
17 TransCanada claims this pipeline would be safe. The
18 safest mechanism would be to go around the Ogallala
19 Aquifer.

20 (Applause)

21 TransCanada needs to show respect to
22 Americans on American soil, instead of bullying,

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1 bribing and soliciting eminent domain to our people
2 to get what they want.

3 (Applause)

4 This is our soil. We need to tell them
5 where the pipeline goes instead of them telling us
6 where the people goes.

7 (Applause)

8 Common sense should tell you it needs to
9 lay alongside the other pipeline. So it's easily and
10 readily watched over. But they can bribe for new
11 easements and throw money at football, county fairs,
12 state fairs, TV ads, radio ads to smooth over the
13 public. With all that being said, I think they would
14 have had enough money to go around.

15 In my professional opinion, this pipeline
16 is not in the best interests of the American people.
17 This is not about jobs, revenue or other hardball;
18 it's about the water. The American people's water.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker 74.

22 MR. BOETTCHER: I'm Scott Boettcher, a

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1 fourth generation rancher, too, that lives in the
2 Sand Hills of Nebraska, and I'm not a public speaker.

3 This pipeline does not cross me, but we
4 all need to be concerned and speak out. I call this
5 36-inch big Keystone pipeline an experimental
6 project, and it is driven by dollar signs that
7 Keystone waves in front of us.

8 This is a big pipe buried in our wetlands,
9 and it will float. If you're very still, add cement,
10 heat it up, put it under extreme pressure for miles
11 in our wetlands, and then add man's one percent of
12 flaws into building it, it will leak.

13 This is definitely an experimental
14 project. No one will know for sure until it's in
15 place, and then the inevitable happens: Our water is
16 contaminated, our land is ruined, people are
17 relocated and our land values are lost. Who would
18 want to buy property that has a spill or a pipeline
19 this big running through it? I sure wouldn't.

20 (Applause)

21 For the people who want these union jobs,
22 they should get on our side. Protecting our

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1 groundwater and going around the Ogallala Aquifer
2 will lead to more pay and time in their pockets. And
3 if it's 250 miles or more to go around, it's a small
4 price to pay to save a natural resource.

5 (Applause)

6 And Keystone has the route in place
7 already with the first line. As far as nonunion jobs
8 that would be created when in place it might be
9 building in fences and moving the port-a-potties for
10 a limited amount of time.

11 Keystone's tactics of trying to hurry and
12 pressure people to sign easements before they legally
13 have the government's approval tells me this is an
14 untrustworthy salesman trying to sell the public into
15 something we don't want --

16 (Applause)

17 -- but to save them money by going the shortest
18 route, not being able to disclose their settlements
19 with individuals is unbelievable, too. If I give
20 \$10,000 for a bowl or \$1,000 an acre for some
21 pastureland, the public knows or can find out, so why
22 do they have these secret deals?

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1 (Applause)

2 Personally, I don't care what they paid
3 out, but I wouldn't want it on my ground at any
4 price. It will devalue our land.

5 We're cracking down on bullying in our
6 schools, but it seems Keystone can keep -- bullying
7 the public into what they want and tell you it's for
8 the betterment of the people and our country, when
9 really the Canadians will be the winners and we'll be
10 the losers of our natural resource.

11 (Applause)

12 Someone locally said the Ogallala Aquifer
13 is as unique as the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone Park.
14 This is a good reason not to disrupt something that
15 gives us pure, clean drinking water. And even though
16 no one driving down our roads or flying over can see
17 it. As the world population continues to grow, fuel
18 may be less of a necessity than clean drinking water
19 to sustain life. Let's protect what was given to us
20 by rerouting the pipeline. There has to be alternate
21 routes and different ways of moving foreign oil into
22 the open world's market.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 75.

4 MR. FRISCH: My name is Terry Frisch, a
5 landowner. I live approximately one and a half miles
6 south of Atkinson, Nebraska on Highway 11. The
7 Elkhorn River flows through the north side of our
8 land. A creek called Dry Creek flows through the
9 middle to the southwest of our land.

10 My main concern is the pumping station
11 that will be located 10 to 12 miles west-southwest of
12 our place, which would be built in a sub-irrigated
13 meadow. When they get to leak, which is widely known
14 to happen, it ill flow to the east into a lake known
15 as Parkey's Lake. From there it will flow through
16 meadows, pastures and wetlands, spreading out to
17 cover several hundred acres before converging to form
18 the head of Dry Creek, which is approximately three
19 miles west of Highway 11, flowing easterly through
20 our land. It flows close enough to us to be able to
21 stand in my corals and cast a fishing rod in the
22 creek. From there it proceeds approximately one and

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1 a half miles on east, but enters the Elkhorn River,
2 which eventually flows into the Missouri River.

3 Our biggest fear is water and land
4 contamination. When a problem happens around the
5 pumping station, plus the fact that Keystone I has
6 had 14 leaks in its first year of operation, with the
7 North Dakota spill in May being 500 barrels does not
8 give us much faith in the safety and construction
9 standards of TransCanada.

10 In closing, you elected officials that
11 have the final say will be held accountable for
12 future generations to come. You people have to find
13 a safer route for this pipeline. Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 Speaker No. 76.

17 MR. GOTSCHALL: Hello. My name is Ben
18 Gotschall. In addition to being a fourth generation
19 rancher who grew up in the Sand Hills where my family
20 still lives, I'm also a part-time Director of
21 Pipeline Outreach for Bold Nebraska. I'm also
22 District 5 President of the Nebraska Farmers Union,

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1 an organization that represents over 5300 family
2 farmers and ranchers in this State.

3 And part of my job as Pipeline Outreach
4 Director, I've seen the pipeline route from Texas to
5 Nebraska, and I've visited with landowners from
6 Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska,
7 Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas not only on the existing
8 Keystone I route but also along the proposed Keystone
9 XL route.

10 The main concern I have here is with the
11 contents of the pipe and its threat to the Ogallala
12 Aquifer, particularly the area of the recharge zone
13 in Holt County, very near to where I grew up; and I
14 share those concerns with Dr. James Goedecke of UNL,
15 according to testimony that he gave to the Nebraska
16 Legislature last year.

17 This diluted bitumen, as it's referred to
18 in the FEIS and as it is, can be called by other
19 names such as crude oil, but it is an unknown
20 substance. There are no MSDS sheets on this
21 substance in the FEIS, and there are no known studies
22 that have been performed on its effects to ground

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1 water.

2 Like Dr. Goeke and other professors at UNL
3 such as Dr. John Gates, I believe that this
4 substance's performance in an aquifer should be
5 studied, and I don't think we should compare the
6 studies to studies done in Bemidji, Minnesota, which
7 is 500 miles away from here, when our own scientists
8 are telling us that the Ogallala Aquifer varies so
9 greatly just ten feet away from the pipeline that
10 generalized statements such as the one made by Ms.
11 Heidi Tulquist earlier about the purported safety of
12 this project, can't be verified as fact.

13 (Applause)

14 Again, I'd like to say, we have no problem
15 with Canada here in this country, to speak to an
16 earlier remark. We have a problem here with a
17 company called TransCanada.

18 (Applause)

19 And for all you folks who came here to
20 support TransCanada and want a piece of their pie-in-
21 the-sky that they're trying to sell you, I want to
22 read from TransCanada's statement on forward-looking

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1 information that accompanies all of TransCanada's
2 press releases.

3 This news release may contain certain
4 information that is forward-looking and is
5 subject to important risks and
6 uncertainties. By its nature, forward-
7 looking information is subject to various
8 risks and uncertainties which could cause
9 TransCanada's actual results and
10 experience to differ materially from the
11 anticipated results or expectations
12 expressed. Readers are cautioned to not
13 place undue reliance on this forward-
14 looking information which is given as of
15 the date it is expressed in this news
16 release, or otherwise, and not to use
17 future-oriented information or financial
18 outlooks for anything other than their
19 intended purpose. TransCanada undertakes
20 no obligation to update publicly or revise
21 any forward-looking information whether as
22 a result of new information, future

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1 events, or otherwise except as required by
2 law.

3 I do not trust TransCanada, and neither should you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 Speaker No. 77.

7 MR. GENUNG: Thank you. My name is Tom

8 Genung. My wife, Kathy and I grew up in Holt County,
9 Nebraska.

10 Before I get started, you may have noticed
11 that a lot of us are wearing Husker red today.

12 (Applause)

13 That's in honor, if it hasn't been
14 mentioned, that's in honor of the decision that Tom
15 Osborne made to discontinue the advertisements on the
16 HuskerVision.

17 (Applause)

18 I'm going to be pretty brief because we've
19 heard a lot of good things today. I agree with
20 everybody that's spoken in reference to the
21 disagreement that TransCanada should build a pipeline
22 through the Sand Hills. I absolutely agree with

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1 that.

2 The reason that I'm here, like I said my
3 wife and I grew up in Holt County, Nebraska. My
4 mother-in-law's land is directly affected by the
5 proposed route. The tactics used by TransCanada to
6 acquire these easements is despicable.

7 (Applause)

8 Without a doubt, the word 'bullying' does
9 fit the situation. The proposed XL pipeline is not
10 in the nation's best interest, and contributes not to
11 fossil fuel reduction. The paradigm of renewable
12 energy must be embraced, creating economic
13 improvements this consider needs and wants. That
14 takes care of the job situation.

15 Once again, do not allow the XL pipeline
16 to cross the Nebraska Sand Hills and the Ogallala
17 Aquifer. Thank you for your time.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 78.

21 MR. O'DONNELL: Hello. My name is Jeff
22 O'Donnell, and I am from Nebraska. I didn't get

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1 bused or flown in here, either. I'm here to speak on
2 behalf of myself and my 12 year old daughter, our
3 friends and family.

4 I am in opposition to the acceptance of
5 the XL pipeline as being in the national or Nebraska
6 interest. I would ask, how and when did the State
7 Department become superior to the EPA and science in
8 determining environmental worthiness?

9 (Applause)

10 When did the sovereign rights of this
11 country and its citizens become subject to the whims
12 of multinational corporate interests?

13 (Applause)

14 When I hear speakers embracing the alleged
15 positive economic impact, I must remind them of all
16 the balloons that we have seen burst economically.
17 When I hear them speak of minimal danger to the
18 Ogallala Aquifer, I want to know how much toxicity
19 they are willing to have their children drink in
20 their water, ingest in their food and milk and bathe
21 and swim in.

22 (Applause)

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1 If this pipeline is so important, why not
2 build this pipeline across Canada? If this pipeline
3 is so important, why must it be across the aquifer
4 instead of complementing the pipeline that already
5 exists across more eastern Nebraska? Wouldn't it
6 then be easier to build a safety culvert of such that
7 would safeguard the two?

8 I heard the statements about making our
9 nation more secure by ensuring a friendlier supplier
10 of oil. Really? A loaded and cocked gun aimed at
11 the aquifer that powers America's agricultural
12 engine, and I'm supposed to feel more secure?

13 (Applause)

14 I find it hard to recognize some of these
15 speakers as not being paid or corporate speakers, or
16 even as Nebraskans; I hear the toxicologist's
17 statement about the safety and low risk -- she must
18 be highly trusted by the TransCanada labs, because
19 information on the substances used to frack up these
20 oil sands are not publicly available. But they will
21 be part and parcel of every gallon transported
22 through the pipeline.

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1 I also have to ask where the State
2 Department's IG is as to the chumminess of several of
3 the Department's officers and the lobbyists and
4 executives of Keystone's backers. I know that if
5 this were several of the federal agencies
6 administering funds to U.S. cities, they are barred
7 from, by law, from said gracious assistance and
8 accommodation that has been shown and reported by
9 numerous newspapers.

10 I do not trust secret meetings, unlicensed
11 realty agreements, and foreign corporations that can
12 hide behind national borders and corporate shuffling
13 with future of this resource. I am a U.S. Army
14 veteran, faithful voter, and a very concerned parent.
15 And I ask that this proposed pipeline not be
16 approved.

17 I note that the supporters of Keystone XL
18 have embraced the color orange; and that is fitting,
19 for orange is the color of warning signs. And we
20 should be warned --

21 (Applause)

22 -- that this is not a safe approach. The technology

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1 does not exist to clean up, let alone contain the
2 contamination that a leap of this pipeline would
3 engender. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 Speaker No. 79.

7 MR. SYDOW: Now good evening, Madam Chair.

8 My name is Bill Sydow, I live in Sidney, Nebraska.

9 I'm speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Oil and Gas
10 Conservation Commission. Our commission is an
11 independent state agency which regulates the
12 exploration and production and development of crude
13 oil and natural gas here in our State of Nebraska. I
14 serve as the Director of that agency.

15 (Commotion in auditorium.)

16 MR. SYDOW: For myself personally, I'm a
17 native Nebraskan, I'm a geological engineer by degree
18 and a petroleum engineer by training and experience.
19 I've worked in the oil and gas industry for 34 years,
20 I'm in my 17th year here, back home in Nebraska at
21 our Commission.

22 Our Commission recommends the approval of

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1 the Keystone XL pipeline on its current route without
2 reservation, for a number of reasons. I want to
3 address four points quickly today in the areas of
4 crude oil and its properties. I think there's great
5 misunderstanding. The location and production of oil
6 and gas here in our state, on the Ogallala Aquifer;
7 the location of existing oil and gas pipelines, and
8 briefly in the national interest of both supply of
9 security.

10 First, a few facts about crude oil. Crude
11 oil is a naturally-occurring vital natural resource,
12 and it should never be considered as hazardous. Men
13 and women have around crude oil since -- (Audience
14 remarks) -- Men and women have around crude oil
15 since 1859, and we have mechanics that daily are
16 around oils, and it is not a harmful material.

17 The degraded crude oil or bitumen in
18 Northern Alberta, in fact where they mine it, serves
19 as the base of the fresh water aquifer system, and
20 the oil and water are in contact there. That bitumen
21 is upgraded, and this crude oil will have a specific
22 gravity of around 32 degrees API, which equates to

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1 about 86 percent of the density of water. In fact,
2 it will float on water. And that is very similar to
3 the crude oils that we produce in Southwest Nebraska.

4 All crude oil has a natural viscosity or
5 thickness which was spoken of. Crude oils in this 32
6 degree API range will not sink to any appreciable
7 depth in the soil profile, both due to its viscosity
8 and its surface tension effects. So that means that
9 crude oil is basically incapable of migrating any
10 particular depth to the water table, if it's at a
11 certain depth; and that is unlike water or gasoline
12 or diesel or any other of the less viscous liquids.

13 One gentleman here today said that oil and
14 water don't mix; that's true, because crude oil is
15 insoluble in water and it cannot chemically degrade
16 any groundwater.

17 Secondly, I want to speak to where we
18 produce the majority of our oil and gas here in
19 Nebraska. And for those who don't know, we produce
20 oil and gas in three areas of our state; in the
21 Southeast, in the Southwest and in the Panhandle of
22 our State.

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1 The Western and Southwestern portions we
2 produce nearly 500 million barrels of oil from
3 approximately 5,000 wells, since probably 1949 out
4 there, on top of the Ogallala Aquifer without any
5 contamination to that. And the aquifer is huge, but
6 we produce oil and gas from 100,000 wells at this
7 time, is not contaminating any aquifer.

8 We still have remaining reserve potential
9 in the state that underlies the aquifer, and we will
10 continue to regulate and safely explore for oil and
11 gas there in the future.

12 Can I have a little more time? Okay.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 80.

15 MS. GABIG: Hi, I'm Kathryn Gabig. I live
16 in Lincoln, but I'm from Baltimore -- I think you're
17 familiar with that town. I will state I am a
18 liberal. I'm an environmentalist. And I'm a tree
19 hugger.

20 I'm really concerned about what we're
21 doing with the planet and how we're passing on all of
22 this dirty stuff to our children. We can't undo

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1 this. And that 12-year old girl that spoke earlier
2 was very articulate, and I don't think I can really
3 top what she said.

4 I had a husband who was very involved in
5 environmental issues and conservation and wildlife,
6 and he's not here to speak anymore, but I feel very
7 strongly that we have to step up to the plate and be
8 truthful about this.

9 We love Canadians. They have a great
10 sense of humor, they have that funny little way of
11 saying "out" and "garage"; and this isn't about
12 Canadian people, this is about an oil company, a
13 mega-corporation --

14 (Applause)

15 -- whose bottom line is what they're interested in.
16 They're not interested in the Sand Hills, they're not
17 interested in the aquifer. They're not interested in
18 our children and our grandchildren.

19 Please, if you have a chance to get to the
20 Sand Hills, you will be absolutely blown away by that
21 area. It is so gorgeous. And that's what it takes;
22 people need to see this area and understand what we

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1 may lose. Water is the next big problem.

2 Please, please, do not go with this.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 81.

7 82.

8 MS. LANGAN: Good afternoon. My name is

9 Marian Langan, and I'm the Director of Audubon

10 Nebraska, and today I'm speaking on behalf of

11 thousands of members of Audubon Nebraska, many of

12 whom are in the room today.

13 Many things have been said regarding the

14 pipeline, so I'm going to divert from what I was

15 originally going to say. But the one thing that I do

16 want to add for you is a picture of the conditions on

17 the ground up in parts of the Sand Hills. And we've

18 heard a lot of discussion today about the depth of

19 the groundwater, whether it's going to move, all of

20 that; and it's a little bit confusing.

21 But this spring I was up there, along the

22 route, standing, looking at the meadow where, one of

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1 the spots where the pipeline is going to go through.
2 And there's water, there's ducks, it's this
3 beautiful, incredible landscape. But as you start
4 watching it, you know, there's water going that way -
5 - and then there's water going this way. And it's
6 the groundwater at the surface, and then it's going
7 down there and then there's water going back into the
8 ground. And over there's water coming up because
9 it's actually under pressure; there's artesian wells
10 there, and so the water's coming up.

11 Unbelievably beautiful landscape. But
12 then you think about or possible circumstance for
13 that landscape, and that is that earlier gentleman
14 said, one drop per second of oil, these undetectable
15 leaks. One gallon a day. Coming up and going that
16 way, then it goes that way, and then there's pieces
17 that go down. We don't know what the chemicals are
18 in that mix. We don't know how that stuff is
19 diluted.

20 And my friend Cindy lives a mile east of
21 the pipeline route; it doesn't give her any comfort
22 to know that that might just migrate East, and it's

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1 certainly not going to be helpful to her grandkids
2 when one of them comes down with cancer because of
3 the water they drank.

4 (Applause)

5 It's coming directly out of the ground,
6 and they're drinking it. There's no filter, there's
7 no anything. it's directly what they're drinking.
8 We've got to move, at the very least move this
9 pipeline, if not stop it altogether. Please deny the
10 permit.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker 83.

14 MS. NELSON: Good afternoon. I'm Nina
15 Nelson from Clarks, Nebraska. That's located almost
16 in the center of the state. And we've heard a lot
17 today, a lot that were sort of given a knee-jerk
18 reaction out of fear. Well, we are fearful, we are
19 fearful for the future for ourselves and our
20 families. But I'd like to think that we're also
21 smart enough that most of us have done our research.
22 We haven't just read the TransCanada ad in the

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1 newspaper and shown up; we've been studying this for
2 months and years.

3 (Applause)

4 I notice that you have bottled water on
5 the table; that shows that you can't even live part
6 of a day without water, probably; and neither can we.
7 I think we've all come to realize that for too long
8 we've taken water for granted; we run over, we turn a
9 tap, and we just have all the water we need, whether
10 it's to drink, take a shower, make a cup of coffee,
11 wash the car.

12 But there's important things in Nebraska
13 that we do for water every day, and we use them; and
14 my husband has spent a lot of his personal time just
15 putting together some hard facts and figures about
16 the importance of water to the ag economy in our
17 area. We happen to live just less than 15 miles from
18 where this pipeline would go through unless it's
19 moved. And we're very fearful that this would impact
20 the water in our own home place.

21 But did you know that on any given day,
22 Nebraska alone has over two and a half million cattle

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1 just in the feed lots? And they consume 5 gallons of
2 water a day; that's almost 13 million gallons of
3 water a day just for cattle in feed lots.

4 Up in the Sand Hills we have three main
5 counties; Cherry, Holt and Custer that have a lot of
6 range cattle. In talking with some people in their
7 association, they estimate over 300,000 cattle are
8 out on that range every day, and the main supply of
9 their water is the Ogallala Aquifer, just as that
10 lady has just told you.

11 And as you travel to Atkinson in a couple
12 of days, if you are the ones that are going, you'll
13 see them.

14 Another main income for Nebraska, not just
15 the people working in the ethanol plants but the
16 towns around them, this is a big payroll. And each
17 plant uses approximately one million gallons of water
18 per day. We also have meat packing plants in
19 Nebraska. I bet you'd be shocked to know that over
20 in just Grand Island, at one plant they kill over
21 5200 head of cattle a day. That's a lot of
22 livestock. And they tell us that they use two and a

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1 half to three million gallons of water per shift.

2 That's a lot of water.

3 Water currently covers 70 percent of the
4 earth, if we look at the oceans and everything; and
5 yet out of all that water, only two and a half
6 percent is fresh water that can be used for cooking
7 or drinking or our animals.

8 (Applause)

9 You know, if we had a source of gold --
10 well, I'd just like to say -- of course, I oppose the
11 aquifer being endangered. I ask you to just not let
12 this pipeline go through anywhere close to it.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 84.

16 MISS WINSTON: My name is Helen Winston,
17 I'm 14 years old, and I am from Omaha, Nebraska. I
18 represent the Sierra Club, Miller South High School
19 Environmental Club, and the cofounder of Patriots for
20 Nebraska, and I am the campus organizer for the
21 student coalition for the Sierra Club.

22 I do not stand before you as some

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1 brainwashed hippie child. I stand before you as a
2 freethinking young adult. I stand before you as a
3 representative of the hundreds of outraged young
4 people who could not make it today.

5 (Applause)

6 I represent the future of not just
7 Nebraska but the future of America. We don't see a
8 future with the pipeline. We don't see a future of
9 an America still reliant upon filthy oil. We don't
10 see a future where farmers are bullied for their
11 lands while the government just stands and watches.

12 (Applause)

13 We see a future with windmills, solar
14 panels and hydroelectricity. We see cars running on
15 hydrogen. We see clean air in the big cities. None
16 of that can happen if we use this crutch, this
17 atrocity that is the pipeline. I want to have the 90
18 years of the rest of my life to be spent drinking
19 clean water, breathing clean air, and living in a
20 clean Nebraska.

21 (Applause)

22 So when you make your decision, I want you

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1 to not just consider your future; I want you to
2 consider my future, the future of the hundreds of
3 people whom I represent, and the billions and
4 billions who come afterwards. Remember me, and
5 remember the kids who I represent. To quote Star
6 Trek: The needs of many outweigh the needs of the
7 few.

8 We, the future, are many. And the rest of
9 the people, they are few.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 85.

13 MR. NELSON: My name is Max L. Nelson, I'm
14 from Clarks, Nebraska, and I oppose the Keystone XL
15 pipeline. I come here today as a lifelong citizen of
16 Nebraska. I am a retired farmer who has enjoyed
17 Nebraska-the good life for 84 years, and I want to
18 see the good life continue on for more years for my
19 children and grandchildren.

20 Therefore, I am totally opposed to the
21 proposed XL pipeline that would tear up our rich
22 agriculture farmland and would endanger our precious

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1 water supply, the Ogallala Aquifer. I have been
2 following the proposal for many months and have a lot
3 of personal research on TransCanada tar sands oil.

4 Tar sands oil, not crude oil.

5 (Applause)

6 And the poisonous substance that would be
7 added to the oil to get it to move through the
8 pipeline. TransCanada is so quick to say "it will
9 not pose a problem"; yet they also admit that leaks
10 up to 2 percent might not be detected. You now what
11 2 percent of 700,000 barrels per day equals to 14,000
12 barrels that might be spilled before anybody even
13 knows it?

14 (Applause)

15 I truly believe the Keystone XL pipeline
16 is a front for terrorism against the United States.
17 I don't know. I don't know who is putting up the
18 money, but TransCanada could have built or maybe two
19 refineries in Canada for the money they have spent in
20 the United States trying to poison our water supply.
21 Two years ago they poisoned a fair amount of water in
22 Michigan when a leak occurred in the Kalamazoo River,

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1 but thanks be to God, it didn't get into the Great
2 Lakes; or as of yet anyway, for the leak is not fully
3 cleaned up to this day.

4 I want to say one thing about that:
5 They're not cleaning it up, they're covering it up.

6 (Applause)

7 A fellow was up there the other day, and
8 it was in a creek, and instead of cleaning it up,
9 they were covering it up with gravel and sand. And
10 where it was on the grass, they were putting other
11 stuff. So that's going to be there for years and
12 years.

13 Now, if they could poison the Ogallala
14 Aquifer, it could ruin the central part of the United
15 States. A country without water other than rain
16 water cannot produce enough food to feed its people,
17 let alone people in other parts of the world.

18 (Applause)

19 I was in China in 1946 when the people
20 were governed by war lords. I saw people dying in
21 the street from lack of water and food. It was a
22 short time after I left that communism moved in and

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1 took over the country and the people approved. If
2 someone provides you food and water, they are your
3 best friends.

4 Is that what TransCanada money is trying
5 to do to us? It won't happen. There would be a war
6 to save our water and food before we are brought to
7 our knees by a foreign entity.

8 (Applause)

9 Maybe this sounds farfetched to some, but
10 the United States to be on the alert for all types of
11 terrorism; not just screening the airports, and the
12 ones we heard about in our daily newspaper. Let's
13 don't be the farmer who watched the door to the hen
14 house while the fox was moving in the window.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 86.

18 MR. SCHREIBER: Good afternoon, my name is
19 Allen Schreiber [sp.] I'm a fourth generation
20 Nebraskan, a fourth generation Republican, former
21 Army officer. I majored in geology at the University
22 of Nebraska, I studied the Sand Hills - Ogallala

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1 Aquifer extensively from the people who literally
2 wrote the textbooks about it.

3 We've heard a lot of expert testimony here
4 from oil industry shills saying it's all safe. We
5 heard Ms. Tulquist's testimony about the Ogallala
6 Aquifer and how there's limited risk, but no bona
7 fides; she failed to mention the fact that she was
8 also paid by TransCanada to come up with those
9 results.

10 (Applause)

11 I have also coauthored an environmental
12 impact statement for the proposed low level nuclear
13 waste facility that was proposed up in Boyd County
14 many years ago. I was part of an independent --
15 again, independent commission that authored that. We
16 were not paid by anybody that had an interest in it.

17 I am one of the few people probably
18 outside the State Department and Entrix who have read
19 the environmental impact statement from cover to
20 cover. And my humble opinion is, "junk." It ignores
21 many important topics that normally should be
22 addressed in an environmental impact statement; it

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1 ignores the Environmental Protection Agency's own
2 recommendations.

3 It is a conflict of interest to use a
4 contractor of the very oil company that wants to run
5 the pipeline as your environmental impact statement.

6 (Applause)

7 It's clearly in somebody else's homework -
8 - and in the academic world, that's called
9 plagiarism.

10 As far as national security goes, we keep
11 hearing we need to wean ourselves from foreign oil.
12 Last time I checked, Canada was a foreign country. A
13 pipeline carrying known carcinogens that will leak
14 into the Ogallala Aquifer water supply is an act of
15 terrorism if it's known to do so, and they do it
16 willingly. It is no different from flying airplanes
17 into the Twin Towers to put a pipeline through our
18 water supply and allow it to leak toxic chemicals.

19 (Applause)

20 As far as those toxic chemicals go,
21 lacking in the environmental impact statement of the
22 State Department is Material Safety Data Sheets.

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1 Thanks very much to You Tube and one very
2 good person in the State of Michigan, I have seen a
3 copy of Huskey Oils' Material Safety Data Sheet for
4 the tar sand crude that's being cleaned up in
5 Michigan currently. It is almost 50 percent solvents
6 to make it thin enough to be pumped. It is composed
7 mainly of benzene, toluene and xylene, all known
8 carcinogens, all on the EPA's banned list.

9 (Applause)

10 As far as our national interests go, we
11 keep hearing our president saying we need to increase
12 our exports to other countries to get out accounting
13 back on steep, we already have trouble, we know here
14 in Nebraska, trying to get our beef exported to Japan
15 and Korea because of one little bone chip. What's
16 going to happen to our grain markets in Europe, our
17 grain markets in Japan and Korea and our beef markets
18 in Japan and Korea when there is a leak from the XL,
19 and it gets into the water supply that waters our
20 cattle and waters our crops? We will never export
21 one single item out of this country or out of this
22 state again.

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1 (Applause)

2 As a lifelong Republican, I am proud to
3 say that I was No. 147 to be arrested in front of the
4 White House on September 3rd protesting the Keystone
5 XL.

6 (Applause)

7 It is an act of insanity. And one of the
8 things I learned early on in biology class is,
9 organisms cannot live in their own waste products.
10 My question to the State Department is, why would you
11 want to okay something which is essentially -- pardon
12 my French -- crapping in the pot that we eat out of?

13 (Applause)

14 Thank you.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 Speaking No. 87.

17 MS. SPEAKER: Thank you and welcome to our
18 beautiful State. I've been asked by several mommies
19 here and outside to speak for their babies and their
20 unborn babies who cannot speak for themselves yet.

21 I'm a native Lincolnite, I've lived here
22 all my life. As a Health Care Provider of over 37

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1 years, I know that healthy, safe water is what we
2 need for our own health and well-being. I'm opposed
3 to the TransCanada pipeline, period.

4 My grandfather emigrated to Nebraska from
5 Bohemia in the late 19th Century and homesteaded
6 here, and we are now in our fifth generation in my
7 family. The water needed for him to produce crops
8 and to grow livestock and to maintain our health and
9 our lives must be clean, safe and healthy.

10 With the spill and leak incidents
11 currently on record for TransCanada I am very, very
12 concerned about future contamination of our water,
13 our life blood.

14 I have yet, before this meeting or during
15 this meeting, to have anyone explain to me in a way
16 that I can understand, or that most of us can
17 understand, if this pipeline is built to cross our
18 aquifer, and there's a leak or contamination, how
19 will TransCanada clean our aquifer for us?

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 MR. HEATHERLY: Thank you. You're

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1 representatives of the State Department and President
2 Obama. My name is Thomas Heatherly, I'm a student at
3 the University of Nebraska, and I've also protested
4 union-busting in Madison, Wisconsin and here in
5 Nebraska, and I feel compelled to remind the crowd
6 here that the union busting was paid for largely in
7 part by Americans for Prosperity, and for the
8 American Petroleum Institute.

9 (Applause)

10 And I have nothing but sympathy for the
11 union workers, but I cannot condone jobs at any cost
12 at all. And I strongly condemn TransCanada for using
13 our economic woes as an excuse to frame this as a
14 debate between jobs and the environmental extremists.

15 (Applause)

16 President Obama, this is an issue of Big
17 Oil versus our immediate and future health. And
18 thanks for the outpouring of objections from the
19 citizens of Nebraska: We know that you know this.

20 We also know that your reelection hinges
21 on the energy of the people here and elsewhere in
22 America that are the most vocal against this

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1 pipeline.

2 (Applause)

3 Stop this pipeline immediately so that we
4 don't have to go to your doorstep and be arrested to
5 get noticed. Stop this pipeline, or I feel that the
6 true extremists will be in power in our government.
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 Speaker 89.

11 MR. POLLACK: Thank you. I'm John
12 Pollack, I'm from Omaha, I'm a meteorologist. I am
13 here to oppose the pipeline and encourage you to do
14 the same in part because of the climate impact. This
15 is some of the most carbon-intensive oil that you can
16 find anywhere on the planet, and it's going to be
17 doing nothing but adding to the problems that we
18 already have.

19 FEMA has already run out of disaster money
20 for the year, until Congress replenishes it. Most of
21 that were climate disasters, and weather-related
22 disasters that are being exacerbated by the extra

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1 carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, there's
2 another aspect that I wanted to speak about,
3 particularly concerning the Environmental Impact
4 Statement and the erodability of the land. Somehow,
5 despite supposedly a good amount of work going into
6 this environmental impact statement, it completely
7 missed the work of several climatologists right here
8 at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln did,
9 studying the Sand Hills.

10 And what they concluded was that there was
11 a 200-year drought between about the years 1000 and
12 1200 in a period sometimes called the medieval
13 climate optimum. It was optimum in Europe, but in
14 this part of the world it was a massive drought. And
15 when that drought hit, those dunes moved. They were
16 not stable, they lost their vegetation.

17 In the lesser droughts, for example the
18 1930s, there were blowouts. But this was a multi-
19 decade drought that desiccated the landscape. Now I
20 think it's highly significant in that context that
21 we're already having the most extraordinary drought
22 in the history of the Southern Great Plains, right

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1 now as we speak; and that drought area threatens to
2 move north. This is what the environmental impact
3 statement says about putting vegetation down: Should
4 long term precipitation patterns in the Sand Hills
5 continue to change and vary, vegetation on the
6 project would adapt similarly to vegetation in areas
7 adjacent to the project.

8 Well, the last time there was a major
9 drought, the vegetation adjacent to the project
10 adapted by drying up and blowing away and growing
11 someplace else. If those sand dunes move, I don't
12 know how long you think the pipeline will remain
13 buried four feet. It's not going to be very long.

14 (Applause)

15 Furthermore, in the environmental impact
16 statement it says Keystone is committed to post-
17 construction monitoring and repair, and will monitor
18 reclamation on the right-of-way for several years --
19 whatever 'several years' means. I think in a place
20 with as much climate sensitivity as the Sand Hills,
21 it should be permanent that you should not be digging
22 in the first place under drought conditions.

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1 (Applause)

2 But I saw nothing that said that you
3 needed to wait for the drought to end, either there
4 or further south where there is also erodable soil in
5 Oklahoma and Texas. I thank you.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 90.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Chelsea
10 Johnson, and I'm a college student majoring in
11 political science and economics at Nebraska Wesleyan
12 University. I'm a born and raised Nebraskan and I'm
13 opposed to this pipeline.

14 I would first like to thank Heidi
15 Tulquist, scientist for TransCanada, for explaining
16 that an aquifer is not an underground lake, and that
17 it is a complex system of porous soil and
18 groundwater. I would like to tell the State
19 Department that Nebraskans are very aware of the
20 composition of the aquifer that nearly covers our
21 state, and we are aware that this aquifer took tens
22 of thousands of years to create, and we are aware

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1 that this is the lifeblood of our economy and our
2 livelihood, and that this economy contributes to five
3 percent of the United States of America's GDP.

4 (Applause)

5 TransCanada has absolutely no experience
6 cleaning up an aquifer, and has no plan in place for
7 how to do so. This is unacceptable, and the State
8 Department's FEIS is unacceptable for not demanding
9 there to be a plan. I have done a lot of research on
10 how to clean aquifers, and what I found is that
11 because the water completely infiltrates the soil,
12 the land containing the contaminated aquifer has to
13 be dug up and disposed of that way.

14 The water contained in that soil was of
15 course unfavorable. Considering a spill can go
16 undetected for many days or weeks, allowing a plume
17 to expand, I am wondering how much of our State
18 TransCanada plans to dig up when there is a spill.

19 (Applause)

20 On a different note, I participated in the
21 anti-pipeline rally this morning; and as we carried
22 our inflatable pipe behind the pro-pipeline group, we

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1 were told to stay on our side; they don't want the
2 pipe over there.

3 Thank you, pipeline supporters, because
4 this is exactly what we have been telling
5 TransCanada. Regardless of past relations with
6 Canada, there is absolutely nothing neighborly or
7 friendly about coming down and threatening landowners
8 and trying to shove this pipeline down our throats.

9 (Applause)

10 And for the State Department to approve
11 this pipeline would be taking allegiance with a
12 foreign corporation that absolutely does not have our
13 national interests at heart; they have their bottom
14 line at heart, and it would be turning their back,
15 turning your back on your own citizens.

16 I do not mean to discredit the validity of
17 a need for jobs; that the jobs are needed is clear.
18 However, it would be better to opt for other
19 construction jobs that will actually increase our
20 national security, because we wouldn't be dependent
21 on foreign oil, period.

22 (Applause)

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1 I acknowledge that we can't be off of oil
2 right away; we will depend on it for some time. But
3 why should we make ourselves more dependent?

4 (Applause)

5 There has been said the opposition to the
6 pipeline comprises of crazy environmentalists. I can
7 tell you from working on this issue for the past
8 year, the opposition to this pipeline crosses all
9 political parties and ideologies. People from all
10 backgrounds, sensible Nebraskans are opposed to this
11 pipeline.

12 As a young adult, I know my generation
13 wants change. I witnessed the entire student section
14 at University of Nebraska-Lincoln boo TransCanada's
15 ads at the football game. My generation is the
16 future. Judging by the quality of the Final
17 Environmental Impact Statement, I'm afraid that the
18 democratic government I have been learning about
19 since fourth grade has sold out to private
20 corporations.

21 (Applause)

22 As a young adult whose heart is American

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1 and whose heart is Nebraskan, I am afraid a
2 significant department of my government has turned
3 its back on me, my generation, and my State.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 Speaker No. 91.

7 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Randy Thompson,
8 from Martell, Nebraska.

9 (Applause)

10 Having been a lifelong Nebraskan, since
11 TransCanada has entered into the picture in the State
12 of Nebraska, I have witnessed some very strange
13 behavior from my fellow Nebraskans. It's not often
14 that you see Nebraska people protesting.

15 (Applause)

16 Especially 50, 60, 70 and 80 year old
17 ordinary citizens. That is not our M.O. here in
18 Nebraska. You do not witness things like the boo-ing
19 that went on in Memorial Stadium when the TransCanada
20 ads came upon the big screen. That's not the way
21 Nebraskans behave.

22 So why are we behaving this way? Because

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1 we feel this is an extremely critical issue to our
2 state, our citizens, our resources; and we feel that
3 cards have been stacked against us.

4 (Applause)

5 Now maybe it's because our land, our
6 heritage, our water and all the beauty of this State
7 is more important to us than any amount of oil money
8 you can give us.

9 (Applause)

10 Or maybe it's because we have seen no
11 evidence that this project will be in our national
12 interest.

13 (Applause)

14 How can you determine that oil passing
15 through our country to some unknown destination is in
16 our interest? It is not. And there is no guarantee
17 that the United States will get any of this oil to be
18 used domestically.

19 (Applause)

20 And just in closing, I would say this: We
21 personally do not feel like putting our livelihoods,
22 our resources, our drinking water at risk just for

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1 the benefit of Big Oil companies. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 I understand that we have another one of
5 your elected officials here, Norm Wallman.

6 Can you come up, Senator Wallman?

7 STATE SEN. WALLMAN: Thank you. Thank
8 you, fellow Nebraskans, for showing up.

9 I'm a lifelong Nebraskan farmer. Thank
10 you for friends all. And I want to say I'm not an
11 enemy of Canada. And also, it's our good neighbor,
12 but TransCanada is a little bit different than a
13 nation.

14 So I heard a lot of good testimony here,
15 and one of it was about disturbing the terrain. Just
16 a couple inches of topsoil and you ruin that grass,
17 and it's really hard to get started.

18 (Applause)

19 And so I have clay soils, I'm a farmer,
20 lifelong farmer. you can put it through my place.
21 I'm for moving the pipeline, I'm pro-pipeline. And
22 so, I think this is a Nebraska problem, and we're

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1 trying to shove it to the federal level. Come on

2 Nebraskans, let's solve it here.

3 (Shouts -- YES. Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker No. 92.

6 MS. THOMPSON: My name is Lauren Thompson,

7 and I'm a third generation Nebraskan. Today I will

8 be reading a letter written by Erin Price, who

9 couldn't be here today. He writes:

10 Greetings, State Department members. My

11 name is Erin Price and I have five

12 generations of ranching and farming in

13 Nebraska running through my blood. I am

14 27 years old and have multiple scars on my

15 hands that mark the times I have shed

16 blood and tears into the ranch that I love

17 so dearly. It is located on the top of

18 the thickest and cleanest part of the

19 Ogallala Aquifer.

20 I have managed this fragile

21 ecosystem for nearly three decades and do

22 not feel that the current environmental

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1 risk management is adequate to support
2 Keystone XL development. Today I plan to
3 expand from my ranching background and
4 jump into larger political and security
5 contacts I feel are being drastically
6 ignored.

7 I've spent a large part of
8 my college and early professional career
9 studying integrated food, water and energy
10 policy. Sadly, one common theme is the
11 short term political cycle which is
12 undercutting our long term abilities to
13 deal with complex and interconnected
14 environmental and agricultural issues.

15 We need to frame the issue
16 here today in new long term natural
17 resource planning contexts. Risking water
18 quality, among other issues, for short
19 term minimal energy returns is not working
20 in the long term context. In the context
21 of water abundance on my ranch, it's scary
22 to look beyond the barbed wire and see

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1 what's going on globally with water issues
2 related to climate change and variability.
3 Water is a scarce and limited resource in
4 many volatile parts of the world, like the
5 Mideast, Sudan and Somalia, and the
6 potential for conflict over raw resources
7 could extend terrorism threats and worse.

8 One of the United States'
9 key and future strategic political
10 interests will be the aquifer that we're
11 all standing on here today. I know
12 firsthand about all the inputs that go
13 into ag production, and I promise you, it
14 all goes back to water. Therefore we need
15 to protect it from outside interests so we
16 can maintain our own food and water
17 security while engaging in the global
18 community like we do today.

19 We have plenty of renewable
20 energy and other opportunities we can
21 pursue on our own terms. We need to be
22 start being visionary today with a new

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1 food, water, energy and security paradigm
2 in our own federal government and state
3 agencies. Business and politics as usual
4 will not work. Today we risk leaving the
5 next generation worse off for the first
6 time in our nation's history.

7 I firmly believe that the
8 geopolitical security issues of food,
9 water and energy that we face today will
10 pose large uncertainties and risks for the
11 operation of our economy and military, our
12 superpower status, and global stability.
13 This solution will demand new diplomacy
14 and adaptive science and management to
15 deal with the a varying climate,
16 interconnected global economy, and
17 diminishing resilience and ecosystems.

18 Let's start this
19 conversation today with the Keystone XL
20 pipeline. Overall, I'm here today because
21 I know my sixth generation would want me
22 to be here. Future generations will

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1 require our nation and the skills in your
2 department to reframe how we view national
3 treasures like the Ogallala Aquifer
4 instead as a strategic interest, and deal
5 with climate change.

6 I recommending rerouting
7 around the Sand Hills and halting
8 development until more of these issues can
9 be resolved. Finally, I want to leave you
10 with this parting thought: I hope you all
11 get to see our State Capitol. We have a
12 seed sower resting on top of the pillar
13 and looking out west towards my ranching
14 community and livelihood. In some
15 symbolic way, I like to think that the
16 seeds our sower is throwing are laws built
17 on the beautiful foundation of democracy
18 and freedom that we all enjoy and are
19 fortunate to participate in here today.

20 When the hammer falls and
21 we all go home, pose this question to
22 yourselves, Secretary Clinton and

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1 President Obama: What kind of seeds are
2 we sowing for the future generations?

3 State Department members,
4 thank you for your time, energy, and
5 service to our nation.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 93.

9 MS. SPEAKER: Good afternoon. I'm from
10 Lincoln, Nebraska. My home county is Greeley, and it
11 borders the Sand Hills. I'm very familiar with the
12 Sand Hills, they're a beautiful part of our State.

13 I want to talk a little bit about the
14 rivers that we're crossing. We have a lot of rivers
15 in Nebraska; the Niobrara, the Elkhorn, the Cedar
16 River. And maybe you've never heard of Cedar River,
17 but the Little Cedar River is a beautiful, narrow
18 little river that starts up in Holt and Garfield
19 Counties. It comes up from springs, probably the
20 aquifer, whatever.

21 It comes down through my home county, goes
22 through Spalding, and there it supplies power. It's

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1 very narrow; you wouldn't believe it would do
2 anything. Looks like an irrigation.

3 The next river is the Blue River, the
4 Platte River, and the Blue River which spreads all
5 over here and there. I think our water supply
6 involves all of these different rivers, which this is
7 probably going to have some effect on.

8 When I first started hearing different
9 comments about the project, I wrote to Secretary
10 Clinton. I did not receive an answer nor did I
11 expect one, but I would like to read a little bit of
12 what I wrote to her.

13 Having written you in
14 October, I am repeating concerns about the
15 pipeline. Nebraska needs some help. We
16 have excellent universities with much
17 interest in research. Our teaching
18 abilities and love of sports programs, all
19 of this pales when it concerns our State's
20 natural resources. I am sure most
21 Nebraskans believe as I do that we do want
22 to participate in solutions for the

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1 energy crisis.

2 First and foremost, though,
3 is the protection of some of the best
4 farming country in the United States; our
5 one-of-a-kind worldwide Sand Hills region,
6 and last but perhaps not least, the
7 Ogallala Aquifer.

8 I and many others are only
9 asking that we not let a foreign country
10 dictate the route and let the present one
11 be rerouted further east in our state to
12 avoid at all costs permanent damage.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 MS. SPEAKER: I have one more I'd like to
16 read, if I can.

17 I hope I haven't lost it. This is to our
18 President Barack Obama:

19 Knowing your very busy
20 schedule, I will make this brief request.
21 Please support those of us in Nebraska who
22 love our productive state in refusing the

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1 Canadian XL pipeline's proposed route. A
2 reroute to the eastern part of Nebraska
3 would take care of our desire to help with
4 the energy crisis. Money for land to
5 those people in the further eastern
6 location could give those people a boost.
7 The present proposed route invades and
8 threatens our prime farmland for corn,
9 soybeans and other essential crops. I
10 neither own nor do I farm any of this
11 land.

12 The old repetitive argument
13 against use of Sand Hills pastureland and
14 the aquifer area demanded by a foreign
15 country still stands, and the XL
16 bombarding commercials are an insult.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker 94.

20 MR. ZINK: Good evening, thank you for
21 coming to Nebraska and providing us this opportunity.

22 My name is Larry Zink, I am 64 years old, I have

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1 lived in Nebraska most of my life; I was raised on a
2 family farm and for the last 25 years, lived in the
3 City of Lincoln. And in both those situations, I
4 have become very familiar with the importance of
5 groundwater to Nebraska, both in agriculture but also
6 in our urban environments.

7 I am here to speak and state the Keystone
8 XL pipeline, as it's currently routed, is definitely
9 not in the national interest, from my perspective.

10 (Applause)

11 I had a number of things that I wanted to
12 share in remarks but quite truthfully, most of them
13 have been said over and over again. So I think I
14 want to share a few things perhaps that I have heard
15 that might be worthy of noting.

16 One, I don't oppose the pipeline per se,
17 but its route through the Sand Hills in particular,
18 and I think it should be rerouted. I have heard
19 people talk about the importance of oil to our
20 economic security, and I think probably most people
21 here today would agree with that assessment, at least
22 as we currently are structured.

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1 I've heard people talk about the
2 importance of jobs to our economic security, and
3 again I don't think that very many people would
4 disagree with that. But I've also heard people talk
5 about the importance of water supply and food supply;
6 and I think in the long run I think most people would
7 agree that those are perhaps even more important than
8 oil.

9 (Applause)

10 As I listen to the people for the most
11 part who have argued in support of the pipeline, the
12 main argument I have heard over and over again is 'we
13 need jobs, and we need quality jobs.' And I think
14 most people would agree with that assessment.

15 I think the people for the most part who
16 have spoken today against the pipeline for the most
17 part have spoken against its route and is wanting it
18 to get out of the Sand Hills and the threat to the
19 Ogallala Aquifer. From my perspective, there is no
20 reason that these should be perceived as opposing
21 points of view. There is an easy solution, for the
22 most, from at least our national interest to solve

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1 that dilemma: Move the pipeline. Get it off the
2 Ogallala Aquifer.

3 (Applause)

4 I would submit to the people who, the
5 labor representatives who are here today that the
6 fastest way to get these jobs is to join with us in
7 an effort to move the pipeline to a safer route.

8 (Applause)

9 That will provide the jobs that will
10 satisfy safety of our water system and it will
11 improve our national interest and our national
12 economic security. I invite Secretary Clinton,
13 President Obama, members of the labor unions and the
14 conservationists and Nebraskans to work together to
15 find a better route for this pipeline. Thank you
16 very much.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 After we hear from the 95th speaker, I'd
20 like us to take just a five minute break for our
21 official reporter. Thank you.

22 MR. WENTZ: Thank you for coming to hear

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1 us speak. I am Troy Wentz. When the colonists in
2 the New World were abused by Great Britain, they came
3 together to stop the abuse, and American Founders
4 wrote these words: Powers of the earth, the laws of
5 nature, and nature's God.

6 I am here because my conscious does not
7 want to see more land, water and Americans abused by
8 TransCanada. When they built their first pipeline,
9 they took land from people who did not want a tar oil
10 river flowing through their property, and our
11 government let them. And TransCanada assumed they
12 could abuse Americans again with the XL pipeline.
13 But history has shown many times from the New World
14 colonists to endangered species and abuse of
15 governments this year, when people or the earth are
16 abused, they will come.

17 Nebraskans rose to oppose Governor
18 Heineman. Americans and people abroad have risen to
19 oppose Obama, and after resting, Americans began to
20 rim the White House, there arose an earthquake and
21 Hurricane Irene. Maybe a warning sign to D.C. For
22 when Mother Earth is abused, she's left with no

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1 choice but to strike back.

2 As for the people who said the XL pipeline
3 will help meet American's energy needs, I believe
4 they are lying. I believe Canadians and Americans
5 will be abused to meet China's needs. For if the
6 pipeline goes to the Gulf, China owns the Panama
7 Canal, and the Chinese government and corporations
8 who have abused their people and who abuse the earth
9 don't care if they burn dirty tar oil.

10 And as for the oil spills from
11 TransCanada's first pipeline, the toxic oil should be
12 put on Michelle Obama's garden so Obama can see the
13 land and plants suffer and be reminded of BP.

14 If the pipeline is never built, then only
15 one toxic tar oil river will risk poisoning the
16 rivers and land of Nebraska, not two. With 2012, now
17 Obama and Congress are talking about creating jobs.
18 One reason Nebraska's unemployment is so low is
19 because land and water have provided food and jobs
20 for generations.

21 (Applause)

22 If the pipeline is denied, it will never

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1 destroy or contaminate the land and water that helps
2 to feed the union workers and their families who want
3 the temporary pipeline jobs. If the pipeline is
4 denied, it will never poison the land and water that
5 helps to feed our world. Maybe some day the Canadian
6 politicians who sold their souls and allowed the tar
7 sands oil production to begin will see how
8 destructive it has become. See how it is poisoning
9 the land, water and people of Canada, and they will
10 shut it down. This I don't know.

11 But I do know TransCanada's abuses are
12 bringing people together who care, intelligent people
13 to oppose Mr. Obama and stop the abuse. We the
14 people have come and I believe Nature's God is
15 watching. I also know if the president says yes,
16 build the pipeline, it will show the world as for the
17 oil corporations and the destruction of the earth,
18 there's no difference between Barack Obama and George
19 W. Bush.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Again, if we can
22 break for five minutes. We will resume at 6:20 with

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1 Speaker No. 96.

2 (Recess)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: If we can resume the public

4 meeting with Speaker No. 96. Speaker No. 96.

5 (No response.)

6 Speaker No. 97?

7 MS. CHRISTENSEN: My name is Ann

8 Christensen. This morning I drove five hours from

9 Iowa City to be here. I appreciate the welcome of

10 the friendly Nebraskans; they haven't arrested me

11 yet, as I was in Washington a few weeks ago, when I

12 was at the tar sands protest.

13 (Applause)

14 Much of what I wanted to say has already

15 been said more ably, so I'll try to keep this short.

16 I do want to say that I'm a very strong union

17 supporter. I know that our economy is stronger when

18 our unions are stronger -- and I hope to see that

19 happen.

20 I want to take umbrage with the gentleman

21 who said this is a Nebraska problem. This is not a

22 Nebraska problem, it's a world problem.

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1 (Applause)

2 The respected British newspaper, The
3 Guardian has named the tar sands pipeline "one of the
4 ten worst environmental projects in the world today."

5 I've traveled around the world; I've been
6 on every continent including Antarctica, and in my 75
7 years I've seen a lot of degradation of our
8 environment. This is now. It's not for our
9 grandchildren. My grandchildren will not be able to
10 drink oil; I don't think yours will -- but the time
11 is now, it's our generation that's going to be
12 suffering before the younger ones.

13 James Hansen, NASA's preeminent scientist,
14 part of this administration, has said that if the
15 pipeline goes through, it's all over for the
16 environment.

17 I hope that President Obama will live up
18 to his campaign promises. I'm a strong reporter of
19 him, but I must say I've been disappointed later. He
20 can come back, he'll have my vote, but I hope that he
21 denies the pipeline. Thank you.

22 (Applause)

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 Speaker No. 98.

3 If Speaker No. 98 is not present, I
4 understand Brent Smoyer, with the Lancaster County
5 Board of Commissioners is here.

6 Can you come up and speak?

7 COMMISSIONER SMOYER: My name is Brent
8 Smoyer, for the record. I am a Lancaster County
9 Commissioner here in Lincoln, Nebraska, representing
10 Lincoln and Northeast Lancaster County, including
11 Waverly and Davey.

12 I'm going to keep my remarks pithy and
13 quick as possible, as I see there is a considerable
14 number of people here to testify. To keep it short
15 and sweet, this pipeline needs to be built. As a
16 County Commissioner here in Lancaster, I have to
17 admit I'm a little jealous of the counties that this
18 pipeline will be running through because of the tax
19 revenue it will bring in; not just for the counties,
20 for the cities, communities and for the State. I am
21 also exceptionally in favor of the job creation that
22 will occur from this pipeline; not just from Central

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1 Nebraska where it will be located, but coming from
2 Omaha, coming from Lincoln. These opportunities to
3 get our economy going and rolling in Nebraska.

4 We do have a little over 4 percent
5 unemployment rate, but I would love nothing more than
6 to see that unemployment rate drop, and this pipeline
7 is a key to seeing that happen for communities across
8 the State.

9 So I would just voice my support for this
10 pipeline, for this project and encourage you kind
11 folks at the State Department to let this project
12 roll and bring in the economic development we need
13 here in Nebraska. Thank you.

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 (Booing.)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 99.

17 DR. PURDON: My name is Dr. Liam Purdon.

18 I'm a concerned citizen.

19 Even during the current manufactured
20 recession, TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL
21 pipeline, a line to be laid diagonally across
22 Nebraska from Valentine to Fairbury, it's truly a

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1 very bad idea. Not because the pipeline's
2 technology, like the 40-year old technology of the
3 current Keystone line that has ruptured 12 times in
4 its first year of operation, will not be of a quality
5 to handle the new highly acidic, corrosive, diluted
6 bitumen or 'dilbit crude' that will flow through it
7 from Canada to Texas at the rate of 900,000 barrels
8 per day.

9 Nor is it a bad idea, because the U.S.
10 Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous
11 Materials Safety Administration or PHMSA has failed
12 to acknowledge the obvious difference between
13 conventional crude and dilbit crude, a difference
14 consisting of the fact that the former is an oil that
15 flows in pipelines at ambient temperatures under
16 pressures of only 600 psi, while the latter is an oil
17 that must flow in pipelines at the high temperature
18 of 160 degrees Fahrenheit under high pressures of
19 1,440 psi or more.

20 Nor is Keystone XL a bad idea because
21 PHMSA has failed to do its due diligence by not
22 identifying the significant difference in chemical

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1 composition between these two types of crude; a
2 difference including dilbit's 15 to 20 times higher
3 acid concentrations such as chloride salts that can
4 lead to chloride stress corrosion, especially under
5 high temperatures.

6 Dilbit's five to ten times greater sulfur
7 content which, upon pipeline rupture and explosion
8 can result in the result in the release of hydrogen
9 sulfide, a gas causing suffocation in concentrations
10 over 100 part per million. Dilbit's significantly
11 larger quantities of non-biodegradable heavy metals
12 such as vanadium, nickel, and arsenic, and
13 significantly larger quantities of abrasive quartz
14 sand particles. And Dilbit's 70 times greater
15 viscosity that requires dilution by toxic
16 carcinogenic hydrocarbons; natural gas liquid
17 condensates such as naphtha or benzene to make it
18 soluble.

19 No, TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL
20 pipeline is a bad idea for one simple reason, a truly
21 frightening fact about the physics of the unique
22 chemical composition of the dilbit crude that will

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1 pass through it, a fact that has deliberately been
2 downplayed in the current debate:

3 At high temperatures and under high
4 pressures, the mixture of light gases hydrocarbon
5 condensate and thick, heavy bitumen can easily become
6 unstable, confronting Nebraskans and other Americans
7 living along or near the route with a ticking time
8 bomb whose dirty contents, when released, are
9 guaranteed to contaminate water, land and food for
10 decades if not generations to come.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 We also have a school board candidate,
14 Jane Kleib, who wishes to speak. Can you come to the
15 microphone?

16 MS. KLIEB: Good evening. I'm actually a
17 proud School Board member. I did get elected on a
18 platform of healthy lunches; proud to say that
19 platform was succeeded within six months. But I'm
20 not here to talk about school lunches; today I'm here
21 to talk about the pipeline.

22 And today I am proud to stand with my

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1 Fellow Nebraskans to say I am a pipeline fighter.

2 (Applause)

3 And I am very proud to say that I am an
4 Ogallala Aquifer and Sand Hills lover.

5 (Applause)

6 But probably what I am most proud of is
7 every single Nebraskan who spoke from their heart and
8 spoke with facts today, and came here on their own
9 free will to make sure that you knew that Nebraskans
10 are not only opposed to this pipeline, but if we
11 can't completely stop it, we are literally begging
12 you to change the route. Because our state elected
13 officials are not taking the authority that they have
14 to change the route and put the proper state-based
15 regulations in place.

16 (Applause)

17 And so I am here to deliver half of the
18 petitions we've collected; this over 2,500 Nebraskans
19 that have all written to you, and I will just close
20 with, we get lots of letters from lots of Nebraskans,
21 and this one was from a group of nuns. And I will
22 just read the quote at the bottom of their paper,

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1 because they said: Preach the truth as if you had a
2 million voices. It is silence that kills the world.

3 And I will tell you, when we started this,
4 we didn't think we had a prayer to go up against Big
5 Oil. But as you will see today, we not only have a
6 prayer but we have Nebraskans on our side to stop
7 this pipeline. Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 Speaker No. 100.

11 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Well, I'm speaker No.
12 100, and I didn't think this moment would arise.

13 (Laughter)

14 My name is John Christensen. I came with
15 the previous speaker, Ann Christensen, from Iowa
16 City, Iowa, and I also participated in the
17 demonstration at the White House, and was arrested
18 with her.

19 (Applause)

20 As we got out of jail, there was this
21 earthquake that someone mentioned, at the same
22 moment. But nothing changed; I don't know why.

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1 I first heard about the tar sands, the
2 present that we're getting of Canadian oil from radio
3 and television ads last spring. And there were
4 people sitting around just talking to each other, and
5 finally one of them was saying, "Did you know that
6 Canada has all this oil, and if we would use it, it
7 would solve all of our problems?" And I heard that
8 several times on the radio, and I couldn't figure out
9 where it was coming from, and then I saw it on
10 television and I saw that the American Petroleum
11 Institute was paying for the ads.

12 Then later on, after we returned from
13 Washington, D.C., there was a big ad on our local
14 paper, and it was a full color ad, full color, half
15 sheet, and it was called "The promise of Canadian oil
16 sands." And it was talking about the Canadian oil as
17 kind of like a savior for our oil problem.

18 And then the ad appeared again the next
19 week, but it was exactly the same except the caption
20 says, "Who are the Americans who will benefit from
21 Canadian oil sands?" The first one had, Brenda M.,
22 Operating Engineer. The next time it appeared, it

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1 was Tim G., pipefitter, but it was the exact same ad.
2 Then the next week it appeared again, but Tim was
3 still on, the person receiving all the benefits from
4 the Canadian oil sands.

5 In extremely small type on the lower right
6 hand that I could barely read with my bifocals, it
7 said that it was copyrighted by the American
8 Petroleum Institute. But on the left side, in a big
9 block -- not that big, about like this -- it said
10 that "Developing Canadian oil sands could support
11 600,000 American jobs." That's a lot of jobs. I
12 thought maybe it was a typo, but each one of the
13 three ads said the same thing.

14 And then I saw, in a letter to the editor
15 of the New York Times on August 29th that the
16 Canadian ambassador to the United States, Gary Doer,
17 wrote that, and he was supporting the pipeline. He
18 said, "Construction of Keystone XL will create 20,000
19 direct and 118,000 indirect jobs." I thought, that's
20 a big difference.

21 And then when we came in this morning, I
22 saw a sign that said "800,000 jobs will be created."

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1 So I was just wondering what was going on here.

2 A lot of those jobs will be temporary
3 construction jobs. If all the money that went into
4 all of these ads -- and I know these ads are in
5 newspapers all over the Midwest, then the television
6 and radio ads are, too; along with the money being
7 used to do this line, if it were used for investment
8 in a clean energy economy, it would lead to more jobs
9 and permanent, higher-paying jobs --

10 (Applause)

11 -- than further investment in fossil fuel.

12 And I have just one other thing I was
13 going to say; there has been a suggestion by quite a
14 few people, maybe half the people, that they should
15 move that pipeline east. And I live in Iowa, and I
16 don't want it moved east --

17 (Laughter)

18 I say stop it. Stop the pipeline.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 101.

22 MS. SMITH: Thank you for being here

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1 today. My name is Carol Smith. I was born in
2 Lincoln, Nebraska and I've lived my entire life here.
3 And I'm hoping that the permit for the Keystone XL
4 pipeline will be denied.

5 (Applause)

6 It is going to destroy valuable natural
7 resources here in Nebraska, but the tar sands mining
8 operation will continue to destroy the boreal forest
9 of the First Nations land in Alberta equal to the
10 size of Florida. Most important to me, however, is
11 that this dirty oil -- if this dirty oil is burned,
12 it will disrupt the complex system of interdependence
13 that sustains life on our planet by increasing
14 greenhouse gases far beyond what has existed for the
15 last 5,000 years.

16 (Applause)

17 Those facts are from James Hansen, NASA
18 scientist, climatologist, and I was arrested in
19 Washington, D.C. the same day he was.

20 (Applause)

21 In 2007, President Bush signed into law
22 Section 526 of the Energy Independence and National

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1 Security Act. It prohibits the U.S. Government,
2 which is the largest single fuel purchaser in the
3 United States, from using taxpayer dollars to
4 purchase fuels that have a higher carbon footprint
5 than conventional oil.

6 If our government can't legally purchase
7 this oil, why should we be forced to use it?

8 (Applause)

9 And I just want to add that I stand with
10 Randy Thompson of Nebraska --

11 (Applause)

12 -- I stand with the First Nations of Canada who are
13 losing their lands to tar sands mining.

14 (Applause)

15 I stand with the Appalachian people who are losing
16 their land to mountain top removal.

17 (Applause)

18 Our nation is filled with smart people
19 that can solve our energy crisis without resorting to
20 tar sand oil. The First Nations people of Canada are
21 keeping this dirty oil from getting out of Canada to
22 the West, and we need to stand with them to keep it

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1 from getting to the Gulf of Mexico. It must stay in
2 the ground.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker 102.

6 103.

7 104.

8 MR. HARVEY: Good evening. My name is
9 Kevin Harvey. I'm the webmaster for the Progressive
10 Green Party. Politics aside, I am from Western
11 Nebraska. My father owned a cattle ranch. We
12 weren't technically in the Sand Hills, but you could
13 see them from our back door.

14 When the Frenchman river, which abutted
15 the north end of our property, dried up we had no
16 longer a way to irrigate our crops, nor our cattle.
17 That feed lot -- perhaps you've heard of The Chisolm
18 Trail. That feed lot was the last stop on The
19 Chisolm Trail; it was 60 miles south of Ogallala.

20 More importantly I want to welcome all the
21 people that came, even in your orange shirts, because
22 that's what Nebraskans do. Welcome. Welcome to

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1 Lincoln.

2 (Applause)

3 Any Nebraskan will do that to you; they'll
4 wave at you. One finger, two fingers as they are
5 driving down the road. But if you come to harm us,
6 not so much. We're not going to welcome you.

7 Back to my father. He was a cattle
8 rancher, he was a farmer, he was a landowner. Those
9 are three things you've heard a lot of. But the most
10 important thing is what they were, and the people
11 that came here to speak, the ranchers and farmers and
12 cattle ranchers, they were stewards of the land.

13 (Applause)

14 TransCanada is a steward of the bottom
15 line.

16 Our source of water dried up, so we were
17 forced to sell our cattle ranch. My father, after
18 leaving the ranching and cattle business, went into
19 irrigation. He spent the next 35 to 40 years selling
20 irrigation equipment; center pivots, all over the
21 world. First all over Nebraska then all over the
22 United States, and then he went international. He

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1 spent a year and a half in Saudia Arabia. He had a
2 quota with Lockwood to sell 500 center pivot
3 irrigation pivots to the Saudis. He had audiences
4 with King Fahd and King Faisal and Prince Abdulla.

5 He sold 650 center pivot irrigations in 18
6 months. He only had to sell 500 in two years, but he
7 sold 650 pivots at \$50,000 a pop to the Saudis. And
8 if the Saudis think oil is big business, why do you
9 think they're buying up all those irrigation
10 equipment?

11 (Applause)

12 They recognize the value of the water.
13 That's why I oppose the Keystone pipeline.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 105.

17 MS. GOULD: Thank you for the opportunity
18 to speak. My name is Donna Gould, and I live here in
19 Lincoln, Nebraska. I took the afternoon off work as
20 a technology manager to come here, because this issue
21 is so important to me.

22 I grew up on a cow-calf operation here in

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1 Nebraska, and I understand the importance of water
2 for drinking and sustaining life, water from the
3 Ogallala Aquifer. I urge the State Department to
4 deny this permit.

5 First of all, I have serious concerns
6 about the process used to acquire the land for the
7 pipeline and the treatment of the landowners by
8 TransCanada, a foreign company threatening Americans
9 for their land.

10 Second, the risk of putting the pipeline
11 over or near the Ogallala Aquifer is too great. I
12 have no doubt that my friends in Orange will build
13 the best, most advanced pipeline possible. However,
14 as someone who works in technology, I know that even
15 things that are over-engineered can and do break.

16 When this pipeline breaks, it has the
17 potential to turn one of Nebraska's greatest assets
18 into a huge liability, poisoning the environment and
19 endangering our water.

20 We've heard the experts here today say
21 that there is minimal risk, but not no risk. We've
22 heard that a series of events would have to happen

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1 for there to be serious risks to the environment.
2 But we've seen that happen, for example, in
3 Fukushima, Japan where the nuclear plant could have
4 sustained an earthquake, or a tsunami, or a power
5 outage; but not the perfect storm of all three at the
6 same time.

7 We've heard that oil has limited mobility;
8 but what about the other chemicals like benzene and
9 xylene that are somewhat soluble with water, and
10 toxic at tiny fractions of their solubility level?

11 I'm a supporter of labor, and it isn't
12 often that I find myself on the opposite side of an
13 issue with them. But the risk of this pipeline is
14 too great. I urge the State Department to deny this
15 permit. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker 106.

19 MR. ATTORNEY: Well, you've had quite an
20 introduction to Nebraska, haven't you? I think
21 perhaps you've sort of gotten the impression that,
22 you know, we're kind of -- you know, we were a rural

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1 state, we have some farming and some ranching, and
2 it's been such a serious session so far, I thought
3 maybe we needed a little humor.

4 So I was going to tell you my three-legged
5 chicken joke. But I realized that if I told that
6 joke that's so long and involved that I'd use up all
7 my time from the joke and I couldn't tell you
8 anything else.

9 So let me just tell you a little bit about
10 why I'm here. I have a bachelor's degree in history
11 from the University of Nebraska. I have a law degree
12 from the University of Nebraska College of Law. I
13 practiced law here in Lincoln for about 25 years. I
14 was trained by the U.S. Army as a transportation
15 corps officer, first in all modes of transportation;
16 rail, truck, water, pipeline, air.

17 I became very curious about this whole
18 project that was going on, this pipeline, and I've
19 done some investigation. I'm not a member of some
20 group that wants to have us quit burning coal or quit
21 importing oil, but I am a third generation Nebraskan
22 and I'm concerned about our State, and I'm concerned

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1 about what's going to happen if this pipeline comes.

2 I discovered some very interesting things;

3 number one, one of the premises that the people is

4 using, they're saying "Well, you know, all these

5 counties that this pipeline is going through -- all

6 these counties are going to get all this wonderful

7 tax money." And I remembered reading that there was

8 another pipeline company that came through Nebraska,

9 Rocky Mountain-something, and they had in fact

10 protested the taxation that had occurred, and now

11 there are 16 counties in Nebraska that are going to

12 have to cough up thousands of dollars in refunds

13 because of the evaluation problem.

14 We're at your mercy, all of us. Everyone

15 here in this room, we're at your mercy. We screwed

16 up. We, according to the Nebraska Public Service

17 Commission, have not a single statute regulating a

18 pipeline that carries crude oil through the State of

19 Nebraska. There is no legislation. We Biff'd it.

20 We Bop'd it.

21 There's a call for a special session. I

22 hope every state senator that hears about this will

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1 join in the call for the special session.

2 (Applause)

3 But if that doesn't happen, you are our
4 last hope. The message that you give to Hillary and
5 President Obama will determine what will happen here
6 in Nebraska. The pipeline is the wrong idea for
7 transporting that oil.

8 (Applause)

9 It's the wrong idea, routed in the wrong
10 place; and boy, I'll tell you, I've got a solution
11 for all these people in orange and lime. That oil
12 company executive that's attending here today, why
13 don't you pledge that you're going to hire all of
14 these people so that you have a pick up truck with a
15 couple of them about every five miles along the
16 course of the pipeline so that you can get a good
17 response time when things screw up as they're going
18 to screw up?

19 (Laughter) (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 107.

22 MR. MOORE: My name is Ken Moore, I'm the

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1 Regional Minister in the Christian church Disciples
2 of Christ in Nebraska, and I'm speaking on behalf of
3 Interfaith Ministries and Nebraska Interfaith Power &
4 Light.

5 Interfaith Power & Light is a nationwide
6 movement that was founded over a decade ago to
7 mobilize a religious response to the moral challenge
8 of climate change and global warming. There are
9 chapters in 38 states and over 14,000 congregations
10 represented; and I'm privileged to serve as the Board
11 President of Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light.

12 IPL strongly opposes the construction of
13 the Keystone XL pipeline on moral grounds.
14 Proponents are quick with assurances about
15 reliability, but TransCanada's Keystone I, as we've
16 heard many times, has had 12 leaks in the first year,
17 including this spring's 500 barrel gusher in North
18 Dakota, which forced the Obama Administration to shut
19 it down.

20 Imagine if this happened in the Ogallala
21 Aquifer, which provides 30 percent of America's
22 drinking water and irrigates the nation's Midwest and

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1 Southern farms. The proposed pipeline would run
2 directly over the aquifer, and according to our
3 governor, our farmers count on 92,685 irrigation
4 wells to provide water for more than 8.5 million
5 acres of crops and pastures.

6 The Sand Hills of Nebraska is an
7 ecological treasure. Before coming to Nebraska, I
8 had never heard of the Sand Hills. I came here from
9 Montana, but after tubing on the Loup River and
10 canoeing the Calamus River and exploring its hills
11 and valleys, I can understand why this unique region
12 has been designated an eco-region by the Worldwide
13 Fund for Nature.

14 (Applause)

15 According to their assessment, as much as
16 85 percent of the Sand Hills eco region is intact
17 natural habitat, the highest level in the Great
18 Plains. It is an area rich with streams and ponds
19 that feed into the Ogallala Aquifer. It is not an
20 appropriate place to put an oil pipeline.

21 (Applause)

22 In addition to the risk to our water

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1 supply and food production, tar sands oil emits 82
2 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil,
3 according to the EPA. Leading scientists registering
4 opposition to the project have stated that the
5 exploitation of tar sands in addition to conventional
6 fossil fuels will leave our children and
7 grandchildren a climate system with consequences that
8 are out of their control.

9 As a person of faith, I oppose the
10 Keystone XL pipeline because of the threat that it
11 poses to the Sand Hills and the Ogallala Aquifer, and
12 because I believe that it is in the national interest
13 for President Obama to leave the nation in an urgent
14 response to the climate crisis, through
15 implementation of better fuel efficiency standards
16 for cars and trucks that are claimed safeguards, EV
17 cars and so on.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to share
19 with you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Speaker No. 108.

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1 MR. BERNT: My name is Robert Bernt, I'm
2 from Wheeler County, Nebraska, and the pipeline runs
3 directly four miles to the west of me. I live
4 downriver on the Cedar River, and it's going to cross
5 under the Cedar approximately those four miles.

6 I'm here on behalf of my great grandad, my
7 grandad and my dad who settled the Sand Hills, who
8 fought with their lives to protect those Sand Hills
9 and the Ogallala Aquifer under them.

10 (Applause)

11 There's been a lot of subjects talked
12 about here today. I'd like to shed some light on
13 some that have not been talked about. In 1974 there
14 was an earthquake that stretched along the proposed
15 pipeline from Stewart, Nebraska south to Bartlett.
16 And just as soon as last year, there were two
17 earthquakes, one southwest of Stuart again,
18 registering 4.2 on the Richter scale, and one at
19 Greeley, Nebraska, which registered 3.2.

20 Now this fault line would run directly
21 underneath that pipeline at several points, from my
22 understanding. Now this is a grave concern to me

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1 after what has happened in Japan, whether this could
2 be sufficient to withstand that kind of a shock.
3 That's one proposal I want to suggest hasn't been
4 brought up.

5 The other one is the recreational
6 benefits. My son runs an outfitting thing on the
7 Cedar River, along with two others. In a short ten
8 mile stretch of that river, of just that river where
9 this line's going to cross, they generated \$150,000
10 in tanking and canoeing. And according to the
11 Governor's Agritourism Council, each dollar generated
12 locally returns five. That's \$750,000 that we're
13 jeopardizing at that point. And I wish not to do
14 that.

15 If you would go on to the Nebraska UNL
16 groundwater water research, they have test wells in
17 the State of Nebraska, all over, giving us the water
18 depth. And you'll see that west of Bartlett,
19 Nebraska where this line is proposed, the water table
20 has actually increased, at record height. So that
21 water is definitely higher than it has been according
22 to their records, concern.

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1 The water also, in the Ogallala -- my
2 family's been there, like I said, since it was
3 Kincaid Act. In 1952 there was some deep well
4 explorations done in that area. And the water moved
5 at such a rapid rate that the gentleman that was
6 drilling the well could not remove his drilling rig.
7 So the water does move.

8 Now everybody here today that I've heard
9 has been concerned about this: It's driven everybody
10 here, it's forcing the job issue; you know, you
11 believe in this and I'm sorry if your jobs are
12 affected, whatever. But I'll guarantee the people
13 from Nebraska believe in this, too, and they believe
14 in the inscription on the back that says "In God we
15 trust." Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker No. 109.

19 MR. DUCKERSON: Thank you. My name is
20 Roddy Duckerson. I am the Conference Minister of the
21 Nebraska Conference, United Church of Christ, and
22 along with my colleague Ken Moore who spoke a moment

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1 ago, we together run a camping operation in Burwell,
2 Nebraska.

3 In the midst of that wild part of anybody,
4 young people come to experience a bit of peace, a bit
5 of rural, a bit of wild, a bit of rivers that don't
6 run dry because they come out of the aquifer. Like
7 others, I'm deeply concerned about this pipeline and
8 about where it is going. But I also believe that
9 there are deeper concerns. Like others, I am part of
10 not just Nebraska but I am part of the United States
11 and of the world. And I know that the concerns about
12 this oil are extraordinary. My colleague, Jim
13 Antoll, the Conference Minister in Massachusetts
14 says, "The temptation to approve the Keystone
15 pipeline is great. Vast amounts of oil can be
16 extracted. But if they are mined and processed,
17 those tar sands will become the second largest carbon
18 bomb to be released into the atmosphere behind only
19 the oil fields of Saudia Arabia."

20 And quoting as others have, NASA
21 Climatologist James Hansen, Jim says to us that he
22 has explained in a paper issued this summer that "If

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1 we tap them, the emissions would mean it is
2 essentially 'game over' for the climate."

3 As a person of faith, that is a bridge too
4 far. I hope you will oppose this pipeline.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 Speaker 110.

8 MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Jim Anderson.

10 There are many reasons to oppose the
11 development of the Keystone XL people. Here are just
12 a few.

13 Mining tar sands is a very expensive and a
14 very ecologically-destructive process. We must
15 remember that Canadian forests have to be cut down
16 and the land strip-mined in order to obtain oil from
17 these tar sands. This process creates many toxic
18 by-products, which further pollute the groundwater
19 and the land around it. Plus extracting and
20 processing tar sands oil will contribute much more to
21 greenhouse gas emissions than conventionally-produced
22 oil, thus warming up our planet even more, causing

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1 much more extreme weather patterns to occur.

2 We've also have got to remember that large
3 amounts of water will be needed to extract and
4 eventually transport this oil; roughly five gallons
5 of water will be needed to produce just one gallon of
6 tar sands oil, which makes it a very inefficient way
7 to produce energy.

8 (Applause)

9 We've also got to remember that in
10 Nebraska this pipeline would cross many rivers and
11 streams, including the Niobrara, the Platte, the
12 Loup, Big Blue Rivers. It would cross over the
13 Ogallala Aquifer, where in many cases the groundwater
14 and surface waters are very nearby each other. This
15 pipeline would cross through the Sand Hills with its
16 porous sandy soils.

17 How Canada TransCanada guarantee that
18 major leaks will not occur when it has already
19 experienced 12, 14, 30 leaks already in the past year
20 on its much smaller Keystone pipeline. The proposed
21 Keystone XL pipeline will be 36 inches, high pressure
22 crude oil pipeline. Such pipelines have heightened

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1 risk of oil spills due to the corrosive nature of tar
2 sands oil. Once an oil leak is noticed, in reality
3 it would be very difficult and expensive to clean up,
4 especially major leaks.

5 You've all already heard about the
6 Ogallala Aquifer, how it's the largest underground
7 source of fresh water. We depend on it for clean
8 drinking water and for many agricultural needs.
9 Placing a high pressure pipeline above the aquifer
10 makes no sense. Accidents will happen. Are we
11 really prepared to deal with the many negative
12 consequences that will result?

13 Wouldn't it be much wiser instead to focus
14 our efforts on developing cleaner and safer,
15 renewable sources of energy?

16 (Applause)

17 Why not focus on developing much more fuel
18 efficient vehicles, developing vehicles which will
19 not need or depend on petroleum as a fuel source?

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 111.

2 MS. PACKARD: I'm Nancy Packard from
3 Lincoln, Nebraska. Can I be heard? -- A small joke
4 -- I've heard other people say "I don't object to the
5 pipeline." Well, I don't object to the pipeline,
6 either, but I strongly object to what it's going to
7 carry through it.

8 (Laughter)

9 I dutifully studied as much as I could of
10 the environmental impact statement, and at nearly the
11 very end, it compares the tar sands oil with other
12 oils; there are about four or five of them, and one
13 from Mexico, one from Venezuela, and it talks about
14 the differences in the strata they're located in,
15 let's say, and their chemical composition.

16 Anyway, I was trying to study and figure
17 out the differences between them, and they're fairly
18 minuscule. And I came to realize it was such a
19 pointless exercise to be dealing with such
20 negativity. It made me confirm, in my view, that
21 climate change is real and that we've got to not be
22 putting this sort of thing into the world.

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1 (Applause)

2 So I know that you want some facts, and so
3 I went to the State Department's website to see what
4 they had to say about climate change, and prominent
5 on the front is about a three paragraph little essay
6 talking about climate change. I'm going to read a
7 little bit of it:

8 The United States is taking a leading role
9 in addressing climate change by advancing
10 an ever-expanding suite of measures.

11 Goes on to tell about that. And then it says:

12 All countries that contribute to
13 atmospheric emissions must undertake
14 measurable, reportable and verifiable
15 mitigation actions in order to cut
16 greenhouse gas emissions. The world
17 community must work collaboratively to
18 slow, stop, and reverse greenhouse gas
19 emissions in a way that promotes
20 sustainable economic growth, increases
21 energy security and helps nations deliver
22 greater prosperity for their people.

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1 A couple of facts that I have gleaned.
2 One is, the average temperature of our earth has been
3 57 degrees for most of human history. We're headed
4 towards 61 degrees and more. That sounds like such a
5 teeny little elevation; and yet if we would go to, do
6 our research on the Internet, we'll see that that
7 little bit of temperature elevation is melting
8 glaciers and it is causing other catastrophic events.

9 The burning of coal and oil has produced
10 about three-quarters of the increase in carbon
11 dioxide over the past 20 years. I think it's a very
12 Dickensian phrase to call this oil and the coal we're
13 dealing with 'crude.' This is the crudest form of
14 energy, and I think the name is apt.

15 (Applause)

16 So, please don't clap; I want my time. I
17 went on a hunt to see who believes in climate change
18 and who doesn't, because I know there are very loud
19 people with a consistent and narrow message, a
20 repetitive message saying there's no climate change.
21 Well, this is what I learned.

22 I found that since 2001, national science

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1 academies from Germany, Brazil, Russia, South Africa,
2 Great Britain, United States, Sweden, Italy, Ireland,
3 France, Australia, India, Japan, China and Mexico
4 acknowledge global warming. That was since 2001.

5 I learned that no scientific body of
6 national or international standing has maintained a
7 dissenting opinion. A few are noncommittal, and the
8 noncommittal status comes because you can't actually
9 conduct an experiment on the earth. You can't have
10 two earths; this earth, which you subject to
11 increased carbon dioxide and this one which you don't
12 and then say "Yup, that was the bad thing. We
13 shouldn't have done it." We're living the
14 experiment.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
16 comments.

17 MS. PACKARD: Oh, yes. Okay.

18 I learned that 90 to 97 percent of active
19 scientists think man-made global warming is
20 occurring.

21 Is the Keystone XL pipeline in our
22 national interest? Yes, it is if we want little

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1 short term jobs and if we want people mopping and
2 scrubbing up the Ogallala Aquifer, and if we want to
3 deal with hurricanes and we want to deal with floods,
4 yes it's in our interest, if we want those kind of
5 jobs.

6 But if we're going to do what America can
7 do, if we are going to be Thomas Edisons and create
8 ways for energy, if we want to build a citizenry
9 these pipefitters -- if we're going to put them to
10 work on solar panels, let's get busy. Let's turn
11 down the XL pipeline. If you believe that the United
12 States of Americans can still in the best ways.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 112.

16 MS. TEETE: Good evening. Thank you for
17 coming to Nebraska. And thank you for allowing
18 citizens like me to speak.

19 My name is Lisa Teete (ph), I am not a
20 radical activist, I am a lifelong Nebraska resident;
21 wife and mother of two children.

22 From my understanding, humans lived

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1 without oil for centuries, and I think we need to
2 start weaning ourselves off of it.

3 (Applause)

4 Like all humans, I drink water, and I'm
5 opposed to this pipeline. My father, Leon Siederlan,
6 could not make it here today; he has been keeping
7 tabs on all the lies that TransCanada has been
8 spreading across our State with the money that
9 they're also spreading across our State.

10 He drinks water, too, and he is opposed to
11 this pipeline.

12 Please listen to the water and soil
13 experts who haven't been paid by TransCanada.

14 (Applause)

15 Next, take a look at the polluted waters
16 across our nation. How much would we have paid,
17 given hindsight, to prevent these spills? You have
18 the opportunity now to prevent a catastrophe. To
19 raise the issue of national security, aren't we all
20 safer if our clean water is protected and kept clean?

21 Think terrorism, bombs, earthquakes.

22 The first Keystone pipeline sprung a

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1 geyser in North Dakota on May 7th of this year, my
2 sister's birthday. It leaked 21,000 gallons due to a
3 failed pipe fitting. How would a 21,000 gallon
4 geyser of tar sands crude affect the Ogallala
5 Aquifer?

6 This pipeline will be buried four feet
7 into porous soils; the water table mere feet below
8 that, and in constant fluctuation. What happens
9 when, not if it leaks? If the pipeline is approved,
10 I'm asking to please move it away from the aquifer.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Before I call on the next speaker, we're
15 at Speaker No. 113, and over 200 speakers have signed
16 in. So I just ask you to try and be as succinct as
17 you can. And of course you can turn in your written
18 comments. A lot of you have been reading your
19 comments and not speaking extemporaneously, and I
20 want to assure you that if you can shorten your
21 comments, anything that you have written down will be
22 made a matter of record.

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1 Speaker No. 113.

2 114.

3 MR. SWIFT: Hi, my name is Greg Swift. I
4 grew up in Omaha, went to college here in Lincoln,
5 and then got a Ph.D. in physics at the University of
6 California at Berkeley. I recently retired from Los
7 Alamos National Laboratory, where I worked on basic
8 energy research for 31 years.

9 I urge the Obama Administration to block
10 the construction of this pipeline because the
11 evidence convinces me that long term climate change
12 caused by burning too much coal, oil and natural gas
13 is a huge threat to American stability.

14 The climate change part of the State
15 Department's environmental analysis compared the tar
16 sands with other crude oil. I think the whole
17 premise of that analysis is wrong-headed. The
18 sensible analysis would be the comparison between
19 burning up the tar sands versus leaving it in the
20 ground and developing alternative energy instead.

21 (Applause)

22 Getting serious now about building a new

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1 alternative energy infrastructure in this country
2 would create jobs and give us better energy security,
3 and give us a decent climate in the future.

4 Look, neither TransCanada Corporation at
5 one end of this pipeline nor Valero and the other
6 refineries at the other end have any concern about
7 the climate unless the government forces such concern
8 on me through regulations.

9 What do I mean about concern the climate?
10 Those companies have no concern whether our
11 grandchildren have to grow cotton in Nebraska because
12 it's too hot to grow corn or soybeans. But the Obama
13 Administration should care about disruption like
14 that. You should use whatever regulatory power is
15 available to you now to slow climate change.
16 Stopping this pipeline would be one good step. Thank
17 you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 115.

21 116.

22 MR. SPEAKER: I didn't think I'd ever make

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1 it this far. Been here a long time.

2 Welcome, thanks for being here and

3 listening to our rants and raves.

4 Anyway, number one I'm against the burning

5 of oil as fuel. We need to get away from that as

6 soon as we possibly can. And I know there's things

7 that we can't deal with right now because of

8 politics, but as far as the pipeline goes, if there's

9 a chance in a million that that thing leaks into our

10 water, it's too big of a risk to take.

11 (Applause)

12 The thing has been mentioned once before

13 today, and that is an alternative route for the

14 pipeline. I already feel like it's pretty much a

15 done deal as far as the pipeline was going to be put

16 in. I just hope we can influence its route.

17 Why can't it be run next to the Keystone,

18 which they already have? They already have roads,

19 rights-of-way, pumping stations, et cetera. To me,

20 that's a no-brainer. Run the two side by side.

21 (Applause)

22 No need to do any more environmental

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1 studies; all that stuff has been done, they already
2 have a pipeline there.

3 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 117.

7 118.

8 MS. CLARK: Thank you for the opportunity
9 to speak today.

10 My name is Shelly Clark, I live in Omaha,
11 but I grew up and spent most of my life in Western
12 Nebraska. I speak in opposition to the XL pipeline.
13 I'm affiliated with no one other than myself. I am
14 not a scientist, I am not a lobbyist, I am not a paid
15 union member bused in here. I am not an elected
16 official or a paid geologist; and thank God, I am not
17 an employee of TransCanada.

18 (Applause)

19 I have been here all day because I am a
20 Nebraskan, a mother, a grandmother, a former teacher,
21 union member, and now a small business owner -- yes,
22 a business owner that provides Nebraska jobs. And I

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1 care about our land and water, simple as that. I am
2 the great grandchild of homesteaders, a fifth
3 generation Nebraskan, and I feel that their spirit is
4 here with me today to help me voice my opposition to
5 this pipeline. I believe it's greed and greed only
6 that is behind the insistence of TransCanada to put
7 the pipeline through this fragile ecosystem.

8 (Applause)

9 I am not a radical, I am the granddaughter
10 and daughter of the stewards of this land here in
11 Nebraska, who instilled in me a respect for this land
12 that sustains me. I'm also here today to represent a
13 voice that has no ability to speak here, or anywhere
14 else; and that is for the American Burying Beetle.

15 This small creature, but very important
16 insect to our ecosystem -- some might say they are
17 the original great recyclers. This pipeline will
18 disturb their habitat. Nebraska is one of the few
19 last stands for this insect. Nebraska has one of the
20 last remnants of a healthy population of the American
21 Burying Beetle. So today, in part, I am lending my
22 voice for this small insect.

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1 Finally, I commend our Nebraska state
2 senators who spoke here today, Senator Haar and
3 others. This morning I read in the Omaha World
4 Herald that 32 of our state legislators still can't
5 decide -- I think that was the quote, still can't
6 decide about a special session. Come on, what more
7 information do they need? Shame on those senators.

8 (Applause, hollering)

9 Fellow Nebraskans, if you are against this
10 pipeline, please when you leave this session today,
11 as soon as you can, please call and write your state
12 senator, and please try to get them to give us a
13 special session.

14 Thank you for your time, for coming here
15 to Nebraska. I appreciate it. Thank you.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 119.

19 120.

20 I think 119 is coming.

21 MS. REED: My name is Dorie Reed, and I'm
22 a clinical psychologist here in Lincoln. But I was

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1 born and raised in rural Nebraska.

2 Anyone in rural Nebraska understands the
3 importance of the land and water resources to our
4 economy. The crops and the livestock raised in this
5 State for a large part feed this nation and the
6 world.

7 (Applause)

8 When you sit down to dinner, the food on
9 that table was supplied by, in large part by this
10 State. Not food on our plates; we eat what we raise
11 here. But the food on your plate.

12 (Applause)

13 I once saw a New York's idea of the map of
14 the United States. The Eastern third of the U.S. was
15 marked "New York" -- the western third was marked
16 "California." And the middle third was labeled "The
17 Great American Desert."

18 The people of Nebraska and this nation
19 cannot afford to risk the contamination of the Sand
20 Hills area and the Ogallala Aquifer and become the
21 Great American Desert. The pipeline route must be
22 moved.

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1 (Applause)

2 After reading the analysis between the
3 State Department and TransCanada, and finding out
4 about the relationships between former State
5 Department employees and TransCanada, I no longer
6 trust the State Department to make an unbiased
7 decision.

8 (Applause)

9 I petition President Obama to reject this
10 application for this pipeline through the aquifer
11 area. Nebraska leaders, including the Governor, and
12 the legislature that has been a day late and a dollar
13 short in protecting Nebraska's land and water
14 resources. I urge the state leaders to do their job
15 to protect Nebraska resources, and to do it now.

16 Remember, this is Nebraska. If the
17 farmers and ranchers are out of work, we're all out
18 of work.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 120

22 MR. DeFRUITER: My name is David

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1 DeFruiter. I am an information technology
2 administrator here in Lincoln. I grew up on a farm
3 near Gothenburg, Nebraska. I helped my father raise
4 sugar beets, and I understand the importance of land
5 and water resources to the economy of Nebraska,
6 United States, the world.

7 I am very concerned about the potential
8 negative impact of the Keystone pipeline and
9 Nebraska's land and water resources. I understand
10 that the State Department's environmental impact
11 study was conducted by the same independent
12 contractor that completed the British Petroleum
13 Company study. We saw how well that worked out.

14 (Applause)

15 To President Obama, to the State
16 Department, and to Nebraska's Governor and the
17 Legislature, TransCanada's Keystone pipeline needs to
18 be rerouted around the Sand Hills and the Ogallala
19 Aquifer. Make it happen.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Speaker 121.

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1 122.

2 123.

3 124.

4 125.

5 MR. CUNNINGHAM: My name is Nicholas

6 Cunningham. I'm a carpenter, I'm a third year

7 geography/geology student at the University of

8 Nebraska at Omaha.

9 A lot of people have very compelling

10 evidence as to why this should not be built. For me,

11 I can't even believe this debate after the BP

12 explosion.

13 (Applause)

14 We understand that corporations always

15 look at their bottom line. They will make shortcuts,

16 they won't hold shortcuts. As a carpenter, I have

17 worked in the construction field. I'm not saying

18 that these guys are inept at what they do, but we all

19 make mistakes. And if they say they don't make

20 mistakes, they're either a liar or they're God. And

21 I don't think God's going to be a pipefitter.

22 There should not be any debate about

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1 putting our water supply at risk; there should not be
2 a debate about the fact that we need to move forward
3 as a nation and find other energy.

4 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 126.

8 MS. NELSON: Hello. My name is Daya
9 Nelson, I'm a lifelong Nebraska resident. I have a
10 lot more stories, but I'm getting to the point.

11 I would like everyone to consider the
12 source of this bitumen being extracted from the
13 Athabasca tar sands of Northern Alberta, in Canada.
14 The Environmental Defense Fund called the extraction
15 of the Athabasca tar sands "the world's most
16 destructive project" where an area of land the size
17 of Florida is going to be stripped of its forest and
18 vegetation and then strip mined, extracting tar sands
19 oil creates three times more greenhouse gases than
20 conventional oil, and we know that.

21 For every barrel of oil reclaimed from the
22 rendering of tar sands, six barrels of contaminated,

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1 toxic water remain. The State Department's
2 Environmental Impact Statement says nothing of the
3 massive environmental costs that originate from tar
4 sands extraction, and I would like to know why.

5 In this era of globalization, why do you
6 choose to ignore this destruction taking place on an
7 unprecedented scale?

8 (Applause)

9 Though I may be a patriotic American, my
10 care and concern for people, animals, plants and
11 water does not stop at the boundaries of the United
12 States.

13 (Applause)

14 My sense of what's right does not stop at
15 the concerns of merely for my family or my community,
16 my state or my country. I care about the whole
17 world.

18 (Applause)

19 And I know I'm not the only one here who
20 can see beyond the boundaries of my own state and
21 nation. Earlier I saw that TransCanada estimated
22 20,000 jobs maximum would be created with this

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1 pipeline. One speaker earlier today said South
2 Dakota was promised thousands of jobs with the
3 original Keystone pipeline, but actual jobs only
4 numbered in the hundreds.

5 For the sake of argument, let's weigh the
6 exaggerated estimates of 20,000 jobs to be created
7 with the construction of this pipeline. Let's weigh
8 20,000 jobs with the toxic environmental disaster
9 that is tar sands oil production. In some cases, a
10 30-fold increase has been seen in heavy metals
11 downstream: mercury, arsenic, beryllium, copper,
12 cadmium, thallium, lead, nickel, zinc and silver
13 downstream from industrial tar sands development
14 sites. Huge increases in cancer have been documented
15 in the populations living downstream from tar sands
16 mining sites.

17 The contaminated water I mentioned earlier
18 is held in tailings ponds. These are the dregs of
19 the process, the toxic waste these tar sands oil
20 producers do not know what to do with. The bitumen
21 remaining in the water kills any wildlife that uses
22 these ponds, and then the ponds inevitably leak and

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1 contaminate land, rivers and groundwater in Canada.

2 Though the government of Alberta has tried
3 to prevent the release of data on the toxicity and
4 pollution to the public, these facts are true:

5 American, it would seem, we're so desperate that we
6 need these 20,000 short-term jobs so bad that any
7 cost is worth it -- Okay, I'll get to the point.

8 Finally, tar sands oil from TransCanada is
9 going to net us 5 percent of U.S. oil consumption.
10 One percent of world production. We are here to say
11 that we don't want our land and water polluted. I am
12 saying that we need to factor in the environmental
13 costs of tar sands oil production. Surely if we feel
14 this way as Nebraskans and as Americans, we can pull
15 together to just reduce our consumption by 5 percent.

16 (Applause)

17 Thank you.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 127.

19 MS. WOLF: Hi. My name is Kathy Wolf. I
20 grew up in Central Nebraska and I now live here in
21 Lincoln; I'm a teacher.

22 I'm speaking in opposition to the

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1 TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline project to be routed
2 directly over the Ogallala Aquifer and the porous
3 land of the Nebraska Sand Hills.

4 Tar sands oil is only an expensive delay
5 in our pursuit of renewable forms of energy. Very
6 small, short term gains are not worth the gigantic
7 long term risks posed by this project. With depth to
8 groundwater being only 10 feet over 65 miles of the
9 proposed XL route in Nebraska, there's a very real
10 danger of groundwater contamination of one of the
11 world's largest fresh water aquifers and one that
12 makes possible one of the most productive
13 agricultural economies.

14 If TransCanada's goal is to be able to
15 reach the ports of Texas, all the company need do is
16 extent the current pipeline rather than build an
17 entirely new one. It has refused to consider that
18 option or to reroute, and has instead deceived and
19 intimidated landowners all along the proposed route,
20 bullying them with threats of eminent domain.

21 If the company had a decent argument in
22 favor of its project, it would not need to resort to

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1 unethical strong arm tactics like these.

2 (Applause)

3 Given the illogic of its attempts to gain
4 approval for this pipeline, I suspect that the
5 transport of tar sands oil is only a smokescreen for
6 a longer term goal, for this company to have access
7 to the water in the aquifer, assuming they don't
8 pollute it beyond use first.

9 (Applause)

10 At some point in the not-so-distant
11 future, fresh water will be far more economically
12 valuable than oil. Do we really want to hand over
13 access to the Ogallala Aquifer to a multinational
14 corporation?

15 (Audience: No.)

16 In addition to our ecosystem and local
17 economy, your own credibility as a State Department
18 is at stake in this issue.

19 (Applause)

20 Now that the link between TransCanada
21 lobbyists and Secretary Clinton's presidential
22 campaign is common knowledge, this project, approval

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1 of this project would only further prove the corrupt
2 nature of the State Department's dealings on this
3 pipeline question.

4 There are many reasons, environmental,
5 economic and political to deny TransCanada the
6 ability to build the Keystone XL. And if the State
7 Department won't stop it, I plead with President
8 Obama to step and do the right thing. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 128.

12 129.

13 MR. MARY: I'm Brian Mary, born in
14 Lincoln, live here still. Thank you for these
15 hearings.

16 A year ago, Jeff Rowl (ph), a spokesman
17 for TransCanada, said they were going to spend a
18 billion dollars to sell this Keystone XL pipeline on
19 advertising here in Nebraska. And of course the
20 other front groups have spent even more; Americans
21 for Prosperity, Tea Party Express, American Petroleum
22 Institute, they've even run ads calling a proposal to

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1 give tax credits for companies converting their
2 trucks to natural gas, which would be cleaner, more
3 plentiful, cheaper, calling that a tax-and-spend
4 boondoggle, as though any challenge to their monopoly
5 on our land and water and lives is something that
6 they've got to shut down.

7 This ad says the Keystone XL pipeline will
8 be the safest pipeline ever built in Nebraska. Of
9 course how can this be the case when over a year ago
10 the Michigan Messenger, covering the Enbridge
11 pipeline spill in the Kalamazoo river of a million
12 gallons of tar sands crude, bitumen mixed with
13 solvents such as benzene said, "According to the U.S.
14 Geological Survey, tar sands oil has vastly more
15 aluminum, copper, nickel, lead, titanium and vanadium
16 than other forms of oil." Cold lake crude in
17 particular is also known to have around three times
18 as much sulfur as conventional oil; a factor the EPA
19 has warned could lead to pipeline corrosion. Others
20 have warned it can result in increased air pollution.

21 On Omaha right wing radio station, heard
22 president or vice president of TransCanada saying

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1 that this would be no different from any other oil --
2 an obvious lie -- and that a spill would move no
3 more than a foot in ten years. Someone here earlier
4 said three feet in ten years. I know that if I pour
5 a quart of oil out on some wet sandy soil, it's going
6 to move more than that.

7 So not being able to fool anyone that this
8 would be the safest pipeline ever built in Nebraska,
9 they've moved on to claiming that, according to this,
10 which Speaker 100 referred to, would create more than
11 342,000 American jobs. I suppose they thought an
12 uneven number would be more believable --

13 (Laughter)

14 I suppose no one told the brightly painted
15 tractor-trailer truck out here that claims 13,000
16 jobs, or the TransCanada president or vice-president
17 on the Omaha station who said 1700 jobs.

18 Now this is sort of like Senator Joe
19 McCarthy talking about how many communists in the
20 State Department; it's a different number every time.

21 (Laughter)

22 But let's talk about what we're really

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1 talking about here, and that is that it's not going
2 to move just a foot or three foot in ten years; I've
3 heard maybe it could go hundreds of miles, the plume
4 could spread. And it's not that we can't water crops
5 or livestock or ourselves on water that's to some
6 degree more or less contaminated; it's just that
7 cancers and birth defects and organ failures would
8 increase at a greater or lesser degree.

9 (Applause)

10 And it's just not practical to think that
11 we can continue to burn more and more fossil fuel to
12 meet our energy needs when the geological record
13 shows that when there's more carbon in the atmosphere
14 it's warmer, and that those Sand Hills have been sand
15 dunes in the past, and that more storms, weakening of
16 the jet stream along with the weakening of the ocean
17 currents, bringing more floods and droughts -- well,
18 that's not going to be very good for our economy
19 here, either.

20 And just finally -- I know I've been given
21 the 'thank you' but I'd just like to say that it's
22 the Koch Brothers and Koch Industries' tar sands that

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1 would be taken from the terminal which is the
2 starting point of this pipeline, and that they are
3 your main enemies, the Obama Administration, the
4 unions -- they will wage war on the unions; I can
5 understand how any pipeline or any jobs, even a few
6 hundred temporary jobs, which is -- the official
7 State Department analysis said it would only a few
8 hundred jobs and that most of those would be
9 temporary, and your administration. They wage war on
10 your administration.

11 How can you possibly follow their
12 dictates? Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 130.

16 131.

17 132.

18 133.

19 134.

20 MS. HOSPODKA: I will be brief. I'm Linda
21 Hospodka. My maiden name was Smith. I am from
22 Chadron, Nebraska originally.

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1 My family has, I won't say deep roots, but
2 extensive roots in Cherry County, in the Sand Hills.
3 I live in Omaha, I raised my family in Lincoln. I
4 travel through the Sand Hills on a regular basis to
5 visit relatives and just to go through the beauty,
6 the respite of the beauty and the calmness and the
7 peacefulness of the Sand Hills.

8 I don't want to see that disturbed, and I
9 don't want the State and this country put in danger
10 by a company that has proved to be untruthful and
11 untrustworthy.

12 (Applause)

13 I want my children and my six
14 grandchildren and their offspring and so on to live
15 in a State where our food is grown, where the
16 livestock is fed off the land, and sent all around
17 the country and the world to feed others -- I don't
18 want to see that destroyed.

19 When I drive through the Sand Hills,
20 particularly in the fall -- and I hope you get a
21 chance to do that. Notice how the grasses change
22 colors. You'll see things in the Sand Hills of

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1 Nebraska that you won't see anywhere else in the
2 world.

3 (Applause)

4 I don't want that disturbed or destroyed,
5 and disturbing could destroy it. I've seen drought.
6 I've seen floods. I don't think that TransCanada can
7 assure us that they won't cause harm to our state and
8 our country. The pollution potential is extreme.
9 Please, please, I hope you have received the message
10 that was given to you today from our hearts.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker 134.

14 MR. NEWINGHAM: Thank you for keeping your
15 promise. My name is Ronald Newingham, and I live in
16 Louisville Rural, which is pretty far to the eastern
17 side of Nebraska. My credentials are simply that I'm
18 a Nebraskan and I have been a union member all my
19 life. I don't belong to the orange or the red this
20 year today, but I do resent the extreme labeling by
21 suits and entrepreneur, because I don't agree with
22 the proposed pipeline.

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1 I find it amazing that a 12 year old girl
2 from Bellevue has more common sense than most people
3 that I've seen here today.

4 (Applause)

5 My issues, though, are over the government
6 speaking from both sides of its mouth. I resent my
7 government doing that to me. And I say that because
8 Senator Johanns asked the State Department to do
9 another study on proposed routing. They assigned an
10 agency from their own department -- they came up with
11 a second and third routing, and the State Department
12 denied the routing because it said it was
13 environmentally unfriendly due to the extra miles in
14 the United States.

15 Well, if that be true then why, when
16 Senator Johanns came up with the solution to run this
17 pipeline through Canada easterly until it got to the
18 easement that's already owned; and the eastern edge
19 of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas and run it down
20 to Steele City, one of its routing marks in the maps
21 -- and everybody has this available to them. That it
22 was denied, but even at that, Senator Johanns'

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1 routing was less miles than the proposed route
2 already.

3 What is it? Is it the miles of the
4 routing that makes it environmentally unfriendly, or
5 that Mr. Johanns' proposal that he says that maybe
6 from that point in Steele City we can go easterly to
7 St. Louis and the refineries there and have them
8 process the oil there, and then the Midwesterners
9 would get some benefit out that.

10 But like I said, his route was denied.
11 Because it meets, the reason for this in my opinion,
12 it needs to go to the Bakken oil fields, which this
13 government and big business wants. And the maps and
14 in the fact handouts it says right here: The
15 proposed project is also capable of transporting U.S.
16 crude oil to the desired delivery point. That
17 delivery points are, the Port of Houston and the Port
18 of -- port of Arthur, and Louisiana. Then that would
19 be shipped out.

20 I see this map to be in our national
21 interest; I see this to be in business interest. My
22 issue here is, if you come with a problem and an

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1 argument, you come with a fix. And I unfortunately
2 only have fix probably for two-thirds of it. The
3 labor, which I support, and the people that want to
4 protect the aquifer. And as I state here, in the
5 aquifer there are two issues that can do this.

6 One, I am saying, raise the standard of
7 the material because if the line falters it will be
8 blamed on labor; Two, run it simply from the northern
9 edge of Nebraska where it's got to enter over the
10 approximate 100 miles east to the existing easement;
11 continue on south as laid out. That's a minimal of
12 100 miles, that protects the aquifer, and at least it
13 will give two-thirds of the bodies here satisfaction.

14 Do not let this administration make
15 another embarrassing decision. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker No. 135.

19 Ms. SHAW: Thank you. My name is Sarah
20 Shaw -- I'm going to make this very brief. I'm a
21 citizen of the world, first and foremost. I am a U.S.
22 citizen, I'm a Nebraskan, and I am a mother. I also

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1 want to tell you, I am not here paid, I left work
2 early today, because this issue is so important.

3 (Applause)

4 This pipeline is not in our national
5 interest. The permit must be rejected. The Ogallala
6 Aquifer is the largest aquifer in the whole world,
7 and it must be protected.

8 (Applause)

9 If this pipeline is approved, I ask you to
10 think about what our children, our grandchildren and
11 our great grandchildren will say. They will ask us:
12 What were you thinking? You had the knowledge and
13 yet you did not act.

14 Make the right decision and reject the
15 pipeline. Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 136.

18 MS. WATSON: Hi. Thanks for being here
19 today and thank you to all the people who left early
20 that I could speak. Appreciate that.

21 I have a whole lot to say, and it
22 certainly wouldn't fit into three minutes, so I'll be

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1 sending my written comments as well. But I do want
2 to make a couple points.

3 There are a lot of things about this
4 pipeline that concern every single one of us in this
5 room, and obviously with the turnout you can see such
6 a concern. I'm concerned about a few things; we know
7 it's not in the national interest, we know this oil
8 is not guaranteed to go to anyone in this country --
9 except what you spill on our land.

10 (Applause)

11 I want to tell you a little bit about
12 myself. My name is Susan. I was born here in
13 Lincoln, still live here in Lincoln; I was gone a
14 couple years, but pretty much I'm a Nebraskan all the
15 way, through my heart.

16 Both sides of my family came here over a
17 hundred years ago, to Nebraska. We've been in the
18 Midwest a lot longer than that, and in the States a
19 lot longer than that. My grandmother came to this
20 country in a covered wagon. Came to the State in a
21 covered wagon -- she didn't need oil. And I'm now a
22 grandmother who is fighting to make sure that the

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1 water stays clean for every generation to come, and
2 not just my own granddaughter but for everybody in
3 this room.

4 I also want to thank the unions for busing
5 in people, and even the people who came in here from
6 Illinois and Iowa and Nevada that we've had the
7 pleasure of meeting today, because you've proven the
8 point that not all these jobs are going to go to
9 Nebraskans, they're not going to go to Lincoln
10 people.

11 (Applause)

12 And I can tell you Nebraskans are some of
13 the most decent folks I've ever known, if you can
14 find anyone on this planet. Americans are some of
15 the most decent folks you're going to find on this
16 planet. We're desperate for jobs; even I'm desperate
17 for a job, but I don't think any of us are willing to
18 sacrifice American lives and American livelihoods for
19 a job, temporary or permanent.

20 (Applause)

21 We need to come up with solutions, but
22 this pipeline is not the solution, and I'm really

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1 honestly upset. I'm American citizen, I expect my
2 American government to be protecting me and my fresh
3 water --

4 (Applause)

5 -- not me having to come here and beg you to protect
6 me from a foreign company that wants to put a
7 pipeline in my drinking water.

8 (Applause)

9 Please do the right thing; deny this
10 pipeline. We are here going through the process,
11 begging you to take care of us and look out for us.
12 Please do at the right thing; deny the pipeline.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 137.

16 138.

17 MR. LARRICK: Good evening. I'm Steve
18 Larrick and I want to thank you for being here and
19 listening to the people of Nebraska. I feel very
20 proud to be a Nebraskan, having heard all the
21 testimony today --

22 (Applause)

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1 -- and I thank everybody for speaking out. I think
2 it's a very important issue for us here. Lincoln,
3 Nebraska is the home of the Groundwater Foundation,
4 which projects educational materials all over the
5 world. The Groundwater Foundation works all around
6 the world, even with the Pentagon, trying to clean up
7 their act; and that's a big job.

8 So we take our water seriously, and we're
9 also looking at the long-term health of the planet;
10 and I think continuing dependence on gasoline-run
11 automobiles is not in the national interest; it's not
12 in the interest of the planet. We really need to
13 move in a new direction, and I feel sympathy for the
14 union workers who were here earlier in the day, and
15 their desire for jobs and dealing with our country's
16 energy crisis. But this is not the solution, and
17 there are many more jobs that will come from
18 investment in clean, renewable energy, with the wind
19 energy, solar energy, geothermal and all other types
20 of energy that we can create.

21 (Applause)

22 As many said, we have a lot of inventors

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1 and I think we just need to get this movement moving
2 forward now, and this is a great example, when we put
3 something of such value to us under such a threat.
4 And you know, just under that high pressure and the
5 heat and the corrosive nature of this oil, it's
6 definitely going to be a disaster for our State.

7 So I hope you'll listen to the people and
8 act accordingly. Thank you.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 139.

12 140.

13 MS. DiBERNARD: I'd also like to thank you
14 for being here today, and for listening to us. My
15 name is Barbara DiBernard, I'm a 33-year resident of
16 Nebraska, a nature lover and bird watcher. I'm
17 opposed to TransCanada XL pipeline and urge you to
18 recommend denial of the permit to build it. The
19 pipeline is not in the national interest of the
20 United States.

21 I grew up in New Jersey, a state which is
22 densely populated and which has few remaining large

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1 tracts of natural beauty. The first time I visited
2 the Sand Hills of Nebraska, I was enraptured by the
3 beauty of the land and the wildlife, particularly the
4 birds that it supports.

5 Here are some reasons to oppose the
6 pipeline: American Avocets, Black Necked Stilts,
7 Whimbrels, Ruddy Ducks, Long-Billed Curlews, and the
8 endangered Whooping Crane. Here are other reasons to
9 oppose the pipeline: Ava, Zefinaya, Cloe, Eli,
10 Belli, Marcus and Samantha, our children and
11 grandchildren.

12 There will be leaks and spills from the
13 pipeline; that is one thing supporters and opponents
14 agree on. TransCanada admits there will be leaks and
15 spills, the Environmental Impact Statement agrees,
16 and Professor Stansbury from the University of
17 Nebraska has shown that the number can be as high as
18 91 significant leaks over 50 years.

19 We do not know fully how these spills will
20 affect the aquifer and the people and wildlife who
21 depend on it. But the potential is for serious and
22 widespread damage. The Keystone XL pipeline is not

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1 in the national interest of the United States.

2 I want to take up just one other issue
3 which we've heard about several times today. Why,
4 when the pipeline is being promoted as freeing the
5 U.S. from dependence on oil from the Mideast does
6 TransCanada want to pipe it 1700 miles through the
7 center of the U.S. to the refineries of Texas and the
8 Port of Houston?

9 According to an article by Judy Gordon,
10 which was published by Reuters just three days ago,
11 97 percent of Canadian oil exports currently go to
12 the U.S. Joe Oliver, the Canadian minister in charge
13 of energy is quoted in that article as saying, quote:
14 "It is critically important that for us to diversify
15 our customer base we hope to be an increasingly
16 important supplier of energy to China."

17 So the Canadian energy minister is saying
18 outright they want to send their oil to China. And
19 since, as other speakers have pointed out, the
20 Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, which is planned
21 to go to British Columbia for shipment to China, is
22 facing tremendous opposition particularly from First

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1 Nations groups. So they're somewhat slimy there; so
2 now they want to come through Nebraska and the
3 Central United States.

4 We do not want to serve the quote,
5 "diversified customer base" that TransCanada is
6 seeking.

7 (Applause)

8 Building a pipeline to make a
9 transnational corporation able to ship their dirty
10 oil to China is not in our national interest; it's
11 not in our global interest. I say no to the pipeline
12 and to the alternative route, as other speakers,
13 Steve Larrick just said, "we have to get off our
14 addiction to crude oil." Please deny the permit.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker 141.

18 MR. KNAKE: My name is Willis Knake, and
19 I'm from White Pine, Nebraska, and I just want to say
20 thanks for being here, and I ask you to go back to
21 Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and ask them to deny
22 this pipeline. That's all I've got to say.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 142.

4 MS. HLAVA: My name is Teri Hlava. I grew
5 up in the Sand Hills and I've worked and lived all
6 across the State, including Nebraska for over ten
7 years.

8 When my thoughts are stressed, I go to
9 sleep. And sometimes I wake up in the morning and
10 the answers have just appeared in the form of
11 clarity. Maybe you've experienced that.

12 This morning those answers came in the
13 form of an analogy. And when I tell you what that
14 is, I don't mean it to be shocking or offensive; I do
15 want it to be memorable. Simply interpreted,
16 regarding the XL pipeline engaging itself with our
17 underground water aquifer, the analogy is this:
18 TransCanada, stay out of our pants.

19 CEOs of the pipeline will continue their
20 polished words, words such as "Trust me, I'm your
21 friend. I love you and will provide for you.
22 There's no risk and we are handing you utopia." Just

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1 are not so.

2 More importantly, it is objectively and
3 repeatedly evident from science, scientists and may
4 others who really know and respect our land and
5 water, that the risk these oil companies, many
6 foreign, want to take with the most vital and
7 treasured resource of the state is not a wide
8 venture.

9 And resource of the state does translate
10 into resource of this nation.

11 My heart, my soul, my guts, my instinct;
12 and yes, my brain tells me that the right thing to do
13 is keep the pipeline out of our pants. To some, the
14 temptation and titillation has been felt. The
15 promises of short term jobs and improved economy
16 lights a false and short term hope for a few, though
17 facts and figures show that selling our state's body
18 and blood for these measly pieces of silver are folly
19 when compared to what we can realistically lose.

20 Recently there was a long public letter in
21 the Lincoln Journal Star from the CEO on Omaha who is
22 directly linked to the XL pipeline endeavors. As I

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1 read his "trust me" words, I also noticed a distinct
2 disdain for those Nebraskans who couldn't see his
3 vision of utopia. He appeared to view them as
4 stupid, ignorant, extremist and uninformed.

5 In today's world, farmers and those
6 reputable in agriculture are in effect scientists.
7 They are also wise enough to know that they must
8 guard the land and water from avoidable
9 contamination. And the last thing they are is
10 stupid.

11 I recognize this person's letter as
12 attempting something that bullies attempt when they
13 feel their power is being challenged. That strategy
14 is to poke fun at those who hold a differing view of
15 life. Make fun of, call names, and basically
16 intimidate was his strategy and message.

17 This is similar intimidation used to of
18 course the landowners who were threatened -- and by
19 the way, paid pennies for promising the penetration
20 of their land with the pipeline. Nebraska students
21 rank in the top 2 percent of the nation's school
22 achievers, and the highest are the ones who are

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1 educated in the smaller schools within that Sand
2 Hills region.

3 My vote is that those pushing their
4 penetrators of political power, money, intimidation
5 and titillation will not get in the pants of Nebraska
6 and the national interest. Condoms and pipes both
7 leak, and don't have the best record over abstinence
8 of shown and known real mistaking. What they are
9 willing to risk is too valuable for any individual or
10 entity to endanger. TransCanada's record of
11 trustworthiness and safety, kindness and respect and
12 true integrity for safeguarding our largest resource
13 is simply not there.

14 I believe they have just begun to
15 experience what might known as the Cornhusker
16 momentum.

17 My father lastly --

18 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
19 comments, please.

20 MS. HLAVA: Lastly, my father was inducted
21 into the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska by
22 Governor Charles Doene. Much of the reason for this

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1 prestigious award was his untiring efforts in both
2 economic development and preservation of our natural
3 resources; mainly the sea filtered through our
4 precious Ogallala Aquifer.

5 Final sentence: Some of his greatest
6 strengths were in the area of economic development,
7 that he knew that if the state's natural resources
8 were not held in awe, and shown the utmost proactive
9 respect, economic development was a mute endeavor.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Before I give the floor to
14 Speaker No. 143, some of you may be wondering, since
15 the Federal Register notice indicated that we would
16 be ending the public meeting at 8 p.m. how much
17 further we will have this public meeting. What I'd
18 like to do, because we did take a break between 3:30
19 and 4, I would like to continue having Nebraskans
20 express their view until 8:30, with your permission.

21 (Applause)

22 And if you can keep your remarks as

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1 succinct as possible so we can get as many people in
2 to speak, we'd really appreciate it. Thank you.

3 MR. RUSH: Hi, my name is Tim Rush, and I
4 will try to make this as brief as possible. I live
5 and work here in Lincoln, I was born and raised in
6 the Sand Hills, I grew up working on my family's
7 ranch in Cherry County, and I've seen how instable
8 the land is there, a lot of good points have already
9 been made. I've scratched off almost everything that
10 I was going to say.

11 But I'd still like to bring out two big
12 holes in the EIS that made me laugh when I read it.
13 The first one is, quote: "Spills may be identified
14 during regular pipeline aerial inspections by ground
15 patrols and maintenance staff or by landowners or
16 passersby in the vicinity of the spill."

17 This statement does not inspire me with
18 confidence. What good will aerial inspections be to
19 a buried pipeline? And if you're going to count on
20 landowners and passersby to help identify a potential
21 spill in the wide open, sparsely populated Sand Hills
22 area, it seems to me that a slow leak could go

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1 undetected indefinitely. They're going to be
2 monitoring these leaks with pressure, basically; if
3 you've got a pinhole leak it will go on for who knows
4 how long? It's buried, how are they going to find
5 this thing?

6 And it's the Sand Hills. I've seen motor
7 oil -- they say that this thing is viscous like motor
8 oil. Well, I've spilled motor oil in the Sand Hills.
9 It disappears. It goes into the ground. So I don't
10 know if it's soluble, whatever.

11 So you've got all these experts, all these
12 experts on every side, okay? And you don't know who
13 to believe. But it's common sense, you could have a
14 problem in the Sand Hills, maybe. So if you just
15 don't put the pipeline over the Sand Hills, you will
16 not have a problem.

17 (Applause)

18 That is just a common sense solution to
19 the problem. I mean, just 100 percent guaranteed
20 solution is already -- Keystone pipeline is already
21 there, and that brings up the second quote from the
22 EIS: Although there is sufficient pipeline capacity

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1 from Canada to the U.S. in general to accommodate
2 projected additional imports of Canadian crude in the
3 short to medium term, there is extremely limited
4 pipeline transport capacity to move such crude oils
5 to Gulf Coast refineries.

6 So everybody knows where the Gulf Coast --
7 why the Gulf Coast? Whatever. But we already have
8 the pipeline that we need, we don't need any more
9 pipeline for short to medium term. I don't know how
10 long medium term is, but that seems like "a while."
11 So, I mean, they're not operating this pipeline that
12 they already have at full capacity. This is -- I
13 mean, if you're talking about the interests of our
14 nation, then you're talking about giving our nation
15 oil.

16 And I love Canada. I went to college in
17 Canada. My best friend is a Canadian. I'm all for
18 Canada. And they're great people up there, I
19 guarantee you that. But it's just -- they don't need
20 the pipeline to bring to the United States; they need
21 the pipeline to bring it to the open market.

22 So thank you for your time. Please reject

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1 the permit for the pipeline.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker 144.

5 145.

6 MR. JALLOT: Good evening. My name is
7 Mohammed Jallot. I'm a fourth generation Nebraskan
8 and a farmer. I'm here to add a voice to Nebraska to
9 say no to the XL pipeline. I think this is just a
10 bad idea. We can do better than that.

11 This is not just about jobs and revenues;
12 it is about life. What is life? You know. We call
13 it life, we could be talking about jobs or revenues,
14 you know. So we need to put our water first, before
15 we talk about jobs. So it's about jobs; we can say
16 no to this.

17 The XL idea was bad yesterday; and it's
18 bad today. That would be disastrous for future
19 generations tomorrow. So it's just a bad idea, so we
20 can no to it and we can do better than that.

21 Tell President Obama and Hillary Clinton
22 that, you know, this shouldn't be an issue we should

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1 be talking about. We have what a lot of people have
2 said yesterday, it's just not something that we can
3 tolerate in Nebraska, I think. We can't jeopardize
4 our water system, so please say no to it.

5 They said -- I would say this -- see, if
6 one frog would lead a group of frogs, they're the one
7 that would get sense, they take caution. It
8 translates: If a frog leading a group of frogs falls
9 into a ditch, the clever ones take caution, you know.
10 We've all seen what has happened in the Gulf Coast,
11 the oil spills out there. We've seen what has
12 happened in Japan, and you know, you guys have
13 written about what's been happening in Ogoniland in
14 Nigeria, you know.

15 These examples are not good examples; so
16 why are we still going ahead with talking about this
17 XL gas pipeline?

18 So let's just say no to it, there are so
19 many unknowns, there are so many unanswered
20 questions, so let's not jeopardize the state of
21 Nebraskans for their greedy or -- I don't know the
22 corporation's name. It's just a bad idea. Thank

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1 you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 147.

5 MS. WRIGHT: My name is Ginny Wright, and

6 I'm from Lincoln. Thank you for your courtesy and

7 endurance. Appreciate it. I'm here to speak against

8 the pipeline in its entirety.

9 Simply moving it to another location does

10 not solve a number of the issues. When I read that

11 Governor Heineman had sent a letter to the State

12 Department and to the President against the pipeline,

13 I was stunned. I could not believe that Governor

14 Heineman and I were in agreement.

15 (Laughter)

16 And honestly, I called his office to say

17 thank you. And I asked that I be able to explain why

18 I appreciated his letters against the pipeline,

19 including that the leak problems, the technology

20 problems, the stuff that you've heard already, we

21 simply don't need to volunteer for those issues to

22 come into our state.

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1 I felt like it's too expensive, it's bad
2 for the climate, people think they're going to get
3 tax income. Will it be enough tax income revenue to
4 cover the expenses of repair or cleanup when the
5 accidents happen?

6 The toxicity of the stuff moving through
7 the pipe, the brain damage that will be caused, the
8 grief caused to families that their anticipated child
9 now has retardation, other brain conditions because
10 of the mercury, the arsenic, et cetera. How are we
11 going to repair that and make that right?

12 The corporations have richly deserved our
13 mistrust, and I will not be complicit with their
14 lying, their misrepresentation, their bullying, their
15 lack of concern for the nature, people, the whole
16 gamut by assenting to this.

17 I strongly recommend denying this request
18 in its entirety. Moving it will not save the
19 environment.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 148.

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1 149.

2 MR. SPOTZ: Hello, everybody. My name is
3 Dylan Spotz, I am a Butler County resident, fifth
4 generation Nebraskan. I severely oppose the pipeline
5 that is proposed through the Sand Hills of Western-
6 Central Nebraska.

7 This proposed pipeline is going to be
8 running through highly erodable soil, through the
9 largest collection of grass-covered sand dunes in the
10 Western Hemisphere. We can't have it. We cannot.

11 I just have to say we can't let this go,
12 we can't. This is our last gasp, and if this is a
13 democracy, our voice needs to be heard. We're here
14 today to let our voice be heard. Please.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 150.

18 MS. SPEAKER: Economic and energy security
19 concerns weigh heavily on us as a nation. The
20 responsibility that you all have for so many people
21 is fraught with many complexities and difficult
22 decisions. I appreciate this, and I thank you for

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1 your willingness to come here today and listen to us.

2 The Keystone pipeline project seems like a
3 good option to ease some of these concerns, even
4 though it's clear that this is a short term solution.
5 The temporary help it affords to the nation as a
6 whole, to the detriment of fewer people, the land and
7 other species, seems to outweigh the cost.

8 As we consider this, though, I invite
9 everyone to listen to the words of Dr. Wungari Matai
10 {ph} of Kenya. Nobel Peace Laureate, honored for her
11 work in environmental stewardship, empowering women
12 in peaceful resistance to violence, biology professor
13 and chair of her department and founder of the
14 Greenbelt Movement whom the world sadly lost on
15 Sunday to cancer. But who still speaks to us in
16 these times of decision-making.

17 This is from an interview with NPR's
18 Michele Martin, who asks Dr. Matai if she has a
19 message for folks who feel that environmentalism is
20 too far removed from their present situation. Here's
21 her response:

22 Adapting and adopting new techniques and

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1 new ways of life-style really is an
2 investment governments have to make a
3 choice about. Because if you don't help
4 your citizens to adapt, you are
5 nevertheless going to deal with the
6 problems of rising seas, melting snows,
7 drying up rivers and all that.

8 Michele Martin's next question: These are long term
9 outcomes, but often people, especially those fighting
10 for survival, feel that they don't have the luxury of
11 considering the long view. Do you find that to be
12 the case?

13 Dr. Matai responds:

14 Yes. Quite often, that's the way people
15 feel. They feel that they don't have
16 time. We often say that poor people will
17 often cut their last tree to cook their
18 last meal. What the poor people have to
19 ask themselves is if they want to put
20 themselves in that situation or would they
21 rather do whatever it takes to make sure
22 that they don't reach that stage.

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1 I believe that this administration was
2 elected because it truly wanted to promote change,
3 and obviously the people want it as well. We are
4 looking for leaders with a vision who will make the
5 hard decisions. Help us adapt and adopt a new
6 life-style as a nation, learn new skills for
7 different jobs, and lead us to change before we reach
8 a time where we are forced to cut down our last tree
9 to cook our last meal. Or put the last drop of fuel
10 in our car to drive to the store to get our last
11 bottle of water.

12 (Applause)

13 We as Americans must also do our part; we
14 must support this change by stepping our efforts to
15 become less depending on nonrenewable forms of
16 energy. It will take a great effort to do it on the
17 scale of a nation, but with the leadership of a truly
18 committed government we can all support one another.
19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 151.

22 152.

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3 155.

4 MS. BROWN: My name is Jill Brown, and I
5 have a very brief statement; and that is, I am
6 opposed to the pipeline. I think we're at a turning
7 point for our whole country and a turning point for
8 all of us who live in this state. We need to protect
9 the aquifer. And that's my statement.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 156.

13 157.

14 MS. HAMILTON: I'm really amazed I got up
15 here today. Thank you so much for your time, for
16 coming to Nebraska, and for being so respectful of
17 all of us as we tell you our side of the story; I
18 really appreciate it.

19 My name is Margo Hamilton. I am a born,
20 raised, educated right here in Lincoln, Nebraska;
21 although now I live on a small farm near Ceresco,
22 Nebraska. This morning I woke up and I had the

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1 pleasure of seeing a snowy white egret right off the
2 wetlands, just south of my house.

3 Since I've lived here, lots of my friends
4 have moved away. They've moved to New York City,
5 Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis,
6 all over the place -- bright lights, big city, really
7 exciting.

8 I've watched numerous elections and
9 marveled as the place I love is called 'flyover
10 state.' Somebody really wise today told me just to
11 speak from the heart, and my heart is solidly here in
12 Nebraska. I love this state and I love these people,
13 even the pipefitters and people who are desperate for
14 jobs that they would ally themselves with people who
15 bully us.

16 I'm here to say that you might be able to
17 fly over my State, but TransCanada is not going to
18 bully Nebraskans to burrowing under my state.

19 (Applause)

20 Thank you.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Speaker No. 158.

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1 MS. ROMERO: Thank you for being with me
2 and all of us today. I appreciate it.

3 My name is Angel Romero, I'm a proud born
4 and raised Nebraskan, and I can stand up here along
5 with everybody that's been here all day and spout out
6 facts and numbers, pros to why we're here against it;
7 cons to why we want to keep it away, but I would love
8 to commend all of the Nebraskans here today who have
9 done a wonderful job educating you guys; and it goes
10 to show that if all of Nebraskans have taken the time
11 and done the research to dig into the facts that it's
12 a vital issue to us, and our land.

13 Without our land, without our water, we
14 are nothing in this State. We can't drink oil, we
15 can't spray our crops with oil, we can't feed our
16 cattle with oil. That would run our livelihood. And
17 I would like to say, you guys have gotten a little
18 glimpse of what my life has been like for over the
19 last year and a half.

20 I'm a community organizer. I've spend the
21 days over in the last year and a half meeting all of
22 these wonderful Nebraskans, all of the landowners.

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1 All of these people who have such great fear of being
2 bullied by this company, and that are being bullied
3 by this company. They want to keep this company out.

4 You've had a day to listen to our
5 concerns, why we don't want it, the facts of why we
6 don't want it here. A lot of us have put some
7 emotion into that. But I spent over a year and a
8 half of my life meeting these people who are now
9 friends and family, joining bonds with the great
10 state of Nebraska and all of the citizens here.

11 So I would love that your message take
12 back the portion of what you got to see was driven by
13 emotion; but the true emotion that us Nebraskans have
14 been dealing with while our livelihood is in the
15 balance, waiting for your decision, is not -- this
16 today does not even come close to seeing the emotion
17 and the fear that we have here.

18 And I reach out to you, Hillary Clinton
19 and President Obama to stop the Keystone XL pipeline.
20 It is not something Nebraskans want, it is not
21 something Nebraskans need, and it is for the better
22 of the country that we say no to the XL. Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 I think we have time for two more

4 speakers; Speaker 159.

5 MR. RUBIN: Thank you. My name is Barry

6 Rubin. I am resident of Douglas County, Nebraska,

7 I'm the former Executive Director of the Nebraska

8 Democratic Party, and currently speak on behalf of

9 over 19,000 members now of Nebraskans for jobs and

10 energy security.

11 I'm here today to tell you that

12 TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline is very important

13 to our nation's security and prosperity. You have

14 certainly heard passionate arguments both for and

15 against the Keystone XL pipeline, and I value and

16 respect the opinion of all of those who speak up.

17 But over the past several months, attacks perpetuated

18 by those who would rather we all ride bicycles to

19 work every day have poisoned the environment in which

20 logical, coherent and adult discussions can be had

21 regarding this proposed pipeline.

22 We've seen everything from arrests at the

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1 White House of Darryl Hanna, whom I assume is a
2 climate change expert via her role as a mermaid.
3 Beanie babies, flashlights, corn fingers. We've also
4 seen threats and personal attacks on any person,
5 elected or otherwise who happens to possess a
6 different point of view on the subject of whether or
7 not this pipeline should be built.

8 We've also heard outright lies from
9 opponents of the pipeline, intended to incite anger
10 and instill fear and hysteria. We've heard
11 allegations of bullying laymen. And more than 90
12 percent of all landowners, 95 percent of landowners
13 in the Sand Hills have agreed to easements. We've
14 heard that the oil will go to China, but you all at
15 the State Department debunked this red herring in the
16 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

17 We've heard that the State of Nebraska has
18 new laws to protect Nebraskans from an oil spill.
19 When state statutes and the Department of Environment
20 Quality's own administrator provides protections, in
21 addition to the federal requirements already in
22 place. And we've heard over and over that the source

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1 of Nebraska's drinking water is at risk, when
2 Nebraska's own preeminent experts and the FEIS make
3 it clear that it's not.

4 Those that oppose the pipeline seek to
5 compensate for the lack of factual evidence through
6 repetition of untruths, of character assassination,
7 through childish attacks on pipeline supporters.

8 Need I say more? You can listen behind me.

9 Much of the hysteria, as I like to call
10 it, comes from the group that more often than not
11 support issues, causes and candidates on my side of
12 the aisle. But this is not a Republican or
13 Democratic issue; it's an issue of common sense. The
14 fact is we need oil, and contrary to the reasons you
15 have heard from pipeline opponents today, the simple
16 truth and motivation behind their well-funded
17 political attacks is that they don't want us to use
18 oil. Don't be fooled into believing that these
19 groups will be perfectly happy if Trans Canada or you
20 folks at the State Department decide to move the
21 route, because they're just going to draw a new line
22 in the sand.

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1 We need new revenue and job creators, and
2 this is exactly the type of project we should be
3 encouraging. \$150 million in tax revenue just in
4 Nebraska alone over its lifetime. 20,000 direct jobs
5 nationwide, over 100,000 spinoff jobs nationwide,
6 with over 7500 in Nebraska alone. Hotels and motels
7 and restaurants filled, and a company, TransCanada,
8 who has agreed to hire the most highly skilled
9 workers in Nebraska and up and down the route, and
10 pay them family-supporting wages and benefits. What
11 we don't need is our federal government to stand in
12 the way of progress and prosperity and national
13 security.

14 And most important to me is the
15 opportunity we as Nebraskans have to be on the front
16 lines of our nation's efforts to reduce our
17 dependence on antagonistic foreign sources of oil.
18 Thanks.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 And our last speaker, Speaker No. 160.

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1 162.

2 MS. SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm a guest from
3 Washington. It really is an honor, and we do
4 appreciate your endurance and your patience, sense of
5 humor.

6 My point is very different; it's a point
7 made by a cockeyed optimist who has been terribly
8 depressed, but not really, about the number of people
9 that say "Oh, you can't do anything about it. It's
10 big business, it's big money. Forget it. It's a
11 done deal."

12 But the reason I left a career, a
13 beautiful career in professional music in Germany was
14 hearing time and time again "You can't do anything
15 about it, it's politics, it's big business." But
16 over the north, the main entrance of our state
17 capital are the words, "The salvation of a state is
18 watchfulness in the citizen."

19 (Applause)

20 And months ago, when I began to collect
21 clippings regarding the pipeline issue, there was an
22 article attributed to the McClatchy newspaper about

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1 American's pledge to reduce greenhouse gases is in
2 conflict with its monetary interests, or our climate
3 vows, it spoke. And I'm from the age, end of The
4 War, where I was taught to respect the office, if not
5 necessarily the office holder. And I do; I have that
6 child's desire to look at the president of my country
7 with respect; and all other offices of government and
8 of the law, and the military.

9 But it's time for me to move on, wake up,
10 grow up, be a bit realistic but never give up that
11 desire to do that little bit that I have, that I can.
12 As Helen Keller said, "I am only one, but I am one.
13 I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And
14 because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to
15 do the something that I can do."

16 Thank you for carrying our message to
17 Washington.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Before we end the public meeting, I would
21 just like to thank everyone. I would like to thank
22 you for the expression of your views; there's been

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1 considerable passion in this room during the course
2 of the day. And I would like to emphasize that the
3 State Department has not made a decision. Your views
4 are very important to us and they will be a matter of
5 public record.

6 If you have not had an opportunity to
7 speak, please do not hesitate to submit your comments
8 in writing. You can leave them with us today; you
9 can also send your comments in by e-mail, by fax.
10 The comments will be accepted through midnight of
11 October 9th.

12 Again, thank you for your graciousness and
13 for your civility. The public meeting has ended.

14 (Applause)

15 (Whereupon, at 8:33 p.m., the public
16 meeting concluded.)

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